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Kids' Monthly

Happy New Year!

Same to you!



## New year around the world



The start of a new year is celebrated all over the world. However, not every country welcomes a new year at the same time. Many people celebrate at midnight on 31st December but for Chinese people, like me, New Year is in January or February.

### Bringing good luck

Chinese people have many beliefs about luck, especially at New Year. Red is the lucky colour — red clothes are bought and homes are decorated with red paper. But red is not only lucky for Chinese people. In **Mexico**, people believe that wearing red underwear at New Year helps you find love. Yellow underwear, on the other hand, helps you become rich. How interesting!



I'll be rich!

### Avoiding bad luck

Getting rid of bad luck is also important. At Chinese New Year, lion dances are performed to chase away bad spirits. At New Year in **Thailand**, people wash away bad luck by throwing water at each other. In **Ireland**, people bang bread on the wall to scare away evil spirits. Very odd!

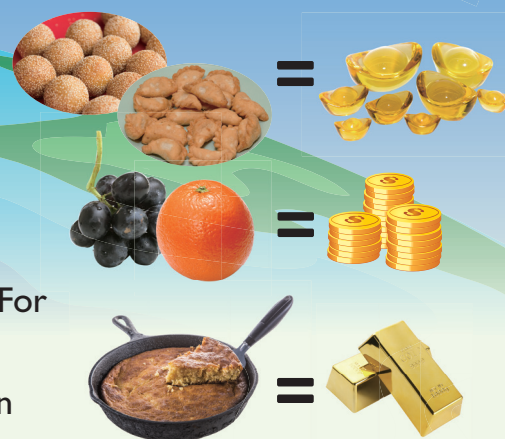




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## Festive food

At New Year, special food is eaten to bring good luck. For Chinese people, rice cakes and turnip cakes are lucky. Deep-fried sweet dumplings and sesame balls are also eaten because they look like pieces of gold. In **the Philippines**, fruit which is round — like coins — is lucky. In parts of **America**, cornbread is eaten because its yellow colour represents gold. Everybody loves the idea of becoming wealthy!



## Midnight traditions

Many places welcome the new year with a bang. Fireworks are lit and people cheer. Some places have strange midnight traditions. In **Denmark**, some people jump off chairs at midnight, leaping excitedly into the new year. In parts of **Italy**, old pots, pans, and even pieces of furniture are thrown away. Out with the old and in with the new!



Although New Year is celebrated in different ways, everyone agrees that it is a time to look forward to a happy future.

How are New Year celebrations in China and other countries similar or different?

