

Exploring Social Studies for Beginners

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American Holidays/Celebrations

Note to parents: Throughout these lessons are links to YouTube videos you can use to enrich these lessons for your children. We suggest parents closely monitor children's use of YouTube if you navigate away from the videos cited in these lessons. We also recommend viewing the videos on a full screen setting in order to minimize your students' exposure to potentially offensive ads and inappropriate comments beside or beneath the video.

KWL chart: Complete the first two boxes now and the last box when you finish the holiday unit.

Know – What I know about holidays	Want - What I want to know about holidays	Learned – What I learned about holidays
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

Vocabulary:

holiday – a special day you celebrate something

tradition – doing things in a way they have always been done

symbol – a thing that stands for something else

celebration – a fun event

Think of your birthday. That is *like* a **holiday**. You celebrate something. You might have the **tradition** of eating cake. Candles on your cake are a **symbol** of a birthday. In the end, it is a very fun party, or **celebration**.

Let's learn about some REAL holidays!

New Year's Day – January 1



New Year's Day is the first day of the year. It is always on January 1. This is the day when we mark another year passing. There are many traditions that go with New Year's Day like what the day means, what to eat, and what to make better.

New Year's Day is a special day to mark a new year. The year changes on this date. Some other places in the world celebrate New Year's Day on a different day. In the United States, we celebrate on January 1. When the clock changes to 12:00 midnight, many people celebrate and cheer for the new year.

Some people celebrate New Year's Day with food. Sometimes families get together to eat a meal. This may be a **tradition**. Some people eat black-eyed peas, pork, cabbage, cake, green vegetables, or fruits.

New Year's Day is also about being better. Some people make plans to do good things. Some people promise to lose weight or exercise more. Others promise to get a better job or make more money. There are many kinds of promises people make on this special day.

New Year's Day comes once a year. It is on the same day every year. It is a day to celebrate by eating and doing better!

New Year's Day Comprehension

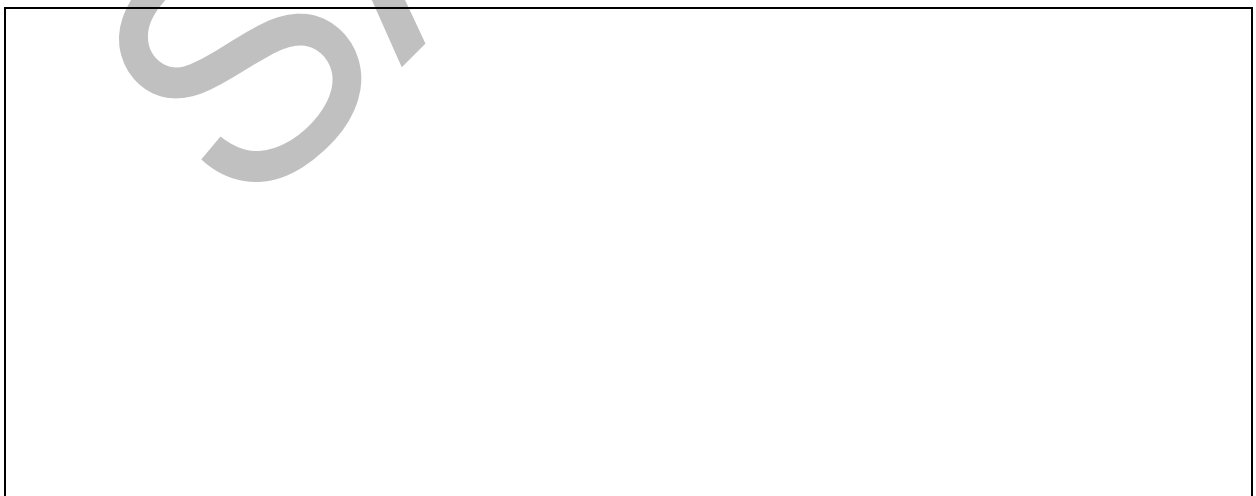
1. What day is New Year's Day?
 - a. February 1
 - b. March 1
 - c. January 1

2. What time does New Year's Day happen?
 - a. 6:00
 - b. 12:00
 - c. 1:00

3. What is one way to do something better?
 - a. eat a lot
 - b. eat healthy food
 - c. be rude to others

4. What is an example of a traditional food?
 - a. cake
 - b. pizza
 - c. hamburger

Draw a picture below about what New Year's Day could look like:



New Year's Day craft:

A **symbol** of a celebration is the firework. Draw a firework with white liquid glue. Sprinkle glitter on the glue. Enjoy!



New Year's Day Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doawnVd0mDs>

Writing Activity:

Think about something nice you do for others like helping someone if they fail, helping your mom or siblings, or helping your grandparents. Write three sentences about how you can help others.
