

Name: _____

Date: _____

New Years Day

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions from the reading.



New Year's Day is the first day of the new year. On the modern Gregorian calendar, it is celebrated on January 1st. It is a public holiday, often celebrated with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the new year starts. This day is traditionally a religious feast, but since the 1900s has become an occasion for celebration the night of December 31st, called New Year's Eve. There are often countdowns to midnight, accompanied with ball drops and fireworks. Americans celebrate with parties, special events, parades and football games. The majority of celebrating begins December 31st with a farewell to the year ending and continues throughout the day on January 1st.

The earliest known record of a New Year's celebration dates from 2000 B.C. in Mesopotamia. Celebrating the beginning of the new year and the end of an old year is a religious, social, and cultural observance in many countries.

1. Name two activities that take place on New Years Eve. _____
2. What date does the majority of celebrating begin? _____
3. What *day* is New Years celebrated? _____
4. When was the first known record of New Years celebration? _____
5. Is New Years celebrated in many Countries? _____

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| 1. Name two activities that take place on New Years Eve. | <u>Ball Drop, Fireworks</u> |
| 2. What date does the majority of celebrating begin? | <u>December 31st</u> |
| 3. What <i>day</i> is New Years celebrated? | <u>January 1st</u> |
| 4. When was the first known record of New Years celebration? | <u>2000 B.C.</u> |
| 5. Is New Years celebrated in many Countries? | <u>Yes</u> |

