Cultural Traditions Webquest 🡪 New Year Celebrations around the World

**Introduction**

All over the world, people welcome the New Year for it is one of the oldest of all holidays.  Most New Year celebrations focus on family and friends.  It is a time to reflect on the past and envision a future, perhaps, in a world where people live together in harmony.

    In the United States we celebrate the New Year on the first day of January but not all New Year celebrations take place on the same day or in the same way!  Sometimes this is because people in different parts of the world use different calendars.  China and Israel keep a lunar calendar.  It is based on the movement of the moon around the Earth.  Some countries celebrate in the spring when new crops begin to grow or in autumn when the crops are harvested.  Adults and children have many different ways of welcoming the New Year.

Task

Goal: to learn about the cultural and religious differences and similarities between ourselves and other diverse cultures.

PART 1 [GROUP]: CHINESE NEW YEAR / SPRING FESTIVAL - Although I have taught many Chinese students, I really don’t know much about this very important holiday / tradition in your culture. SO 🡪 you will gather the information – create a PowerPoint presentation – and teach me on FRIDAY, 2/3

PART 2 [INDIVIDUAL]: Each of you will be required to present the New Year traditions from a different country or culture to the class (see list below), create a PowerPoint presentation, and present to the class 🡪 Presentations in class on THURSDAY, 2/9

Select ONE of the countries or cultures below for your research:

* [Shougatsu](http://www.us-japan.org/edomatsu/shogatsu/shogatsu.html)  (Japanese)
* [Hogmanay](https://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/events/christmas-winter-festivals/hogmanay/) (Scottish)
* [Chaul Chnam Thmey](http://www.travelcambodiaonline.com/travel-news/chaul-chnam-thmey-cambodian-new-year)  (Cambodian)
* [Nouruz](http://www.ibtimes.com/what-nowruz-how-persian-new-year-celebrated-iran-afghanistan-turkey-2337690)  (Iranian)
* [Tet Nguryen Dan](https://www.vietnamonline.com/tet.html)  (Vietnamese)
* [Festival of Saint Basil](http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/44066.htm)  (Greek)
* [Rosh Hashanah](http://judaism.about.com/od/holidays/a/Most-Important-Things-To-Know-About-Rosh-Hashanah.htm)  (Jewish)
* [Muharram](http://www.theholidayspot.com/islamic/muharram/history.htm) (Muslim)
* [Silvesterabend](https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/holidays-and-celebrations/silvester-new-years-eve-germany/)  (German / Austrian)
* [Ano Nuevo](http://www.departful.com/2013/12/latin-american-new-years-traditions/) (Hispanic)
* [Diwali](http://www.diwalifestival.org/diwali-traditions-customs.html) (India)

Process

1.  Choose New Year to research

2.  Research the New Year traditions of your country to include (but you are not limited to) the following:

* New Year Date
* Origins
* Traditions or Customs
* Food
* Clothing and Gifts

3. During your presentation, you may want to include music, costumes, literature or stories, language phrases or vocabulary, related crafts or activities, charts or displays, decorations, and/or traditional foods and recipes.

4.  Create a PowerPoint presentation using your research.

5.  Present PowerPoint to the class.

Things to Remember:

* You must include a slide that lists the websites you used.
* You may NOT copy and paste from websites to your presentation.  I WILL KNOW!!
* You can organize your presentation however you'd like.