

Global New Beginnings Answer Key

1. They eat twelve grapes; each grape represents good luck for one month of the year.
2. Bells ring 108 times to symbolize cleansing away negative emotions for a fresh start.
3. People wear white to symbolize peace and renewal.
4. Round objects represent coins, symbolizing wealth and prosperity.
5. All traditions share a theme of hope, renewal, and new beginnings.
6. (Answers will vary-should include reasoning connected to cultural interest or symbolism.)

Teacher's Guide

Implementation Tips:

- Begin with a short discussion about how students and their families celebrate New Year's.
- Encourage visualization by asking students to imagine the colors, sounds, and tastes of each tradition as they read.
- Read the passage aloud once as a class, then allow silent or paired rereading for deeper understanding.

Differentiation Strategies:

- **Grades 4-5:** Highlight key vocabulary (e.g., renewal, prosperity, fortune) and use sentence frames for responses.
- **Grades 6-8:** Have students infer cultural values behind each tradition or compare them to U.S. customs.
- **ELL Support:** Provide brief definitions or pictures of symbolic items like "grapes," "bells," and "polka dots."

Extension Idea:

- Encourage creative writing: "Imagine you traveled to one of these countries-describe your experience celebrating New Year's there."