

When do we celebrate New Year in the world ?



New Year's Day is the first day of the calendar year. It is celebrated as a holiday in almost every country in the world. It is a time of gaiety, sharing with friends, remembering the past, and hoping for good things in the future. In the United States, thousands of people jam Times Square in New York City to welcome the New Year at midnight. The transition between New Year's Eve and New Year's Day is an exciting one. In Times Square, people count down the seconds to welcome the new day as the New Year ball slowly descends and lights up the area.

Not all countries or cultures celebrate New Year on January 1st. The Chinese, Egyptian, Jewish, Roman, and Mohammedan years all have different start dates.

The Chinese New Year starts on a different day each year.

The Chinese Lunar Calendar is 2,640 years older than ours and never begins on January 1st, nor does it begin on the same date each year. It can begin any time between January 21st and February 18th, depending on the date of the New Moon in Aquarius. Each year is named for an animal. Every 12 years this cycle begins again. The Chinese say that the animal ruling the year you were born will influence your life. In 2009, Chinese New Year begins January 26th and will be the year of the Ox.



According to Chinese folklore, every person has personality traits that are the same as their animal birth sign. The different animals are :

The Rat The Ox The Tiger The Rabbit The Dragon The Snake The Horse
The Sheep/Goat The Monkey The Rooster The Dog The Pig

Thousands of years ago, the Egyptians celebrated their New Year about the middle of June. That was the time when the Nile River usually overflowed.

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com>

January 1 was recognized as New Year's Day in the 1500's with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar. The Julian Calendar places the New Year on January 14. The Jewish New Year, a feast day, is celebrated about the time of the fall equinox, in late September.



Janus with key and cock

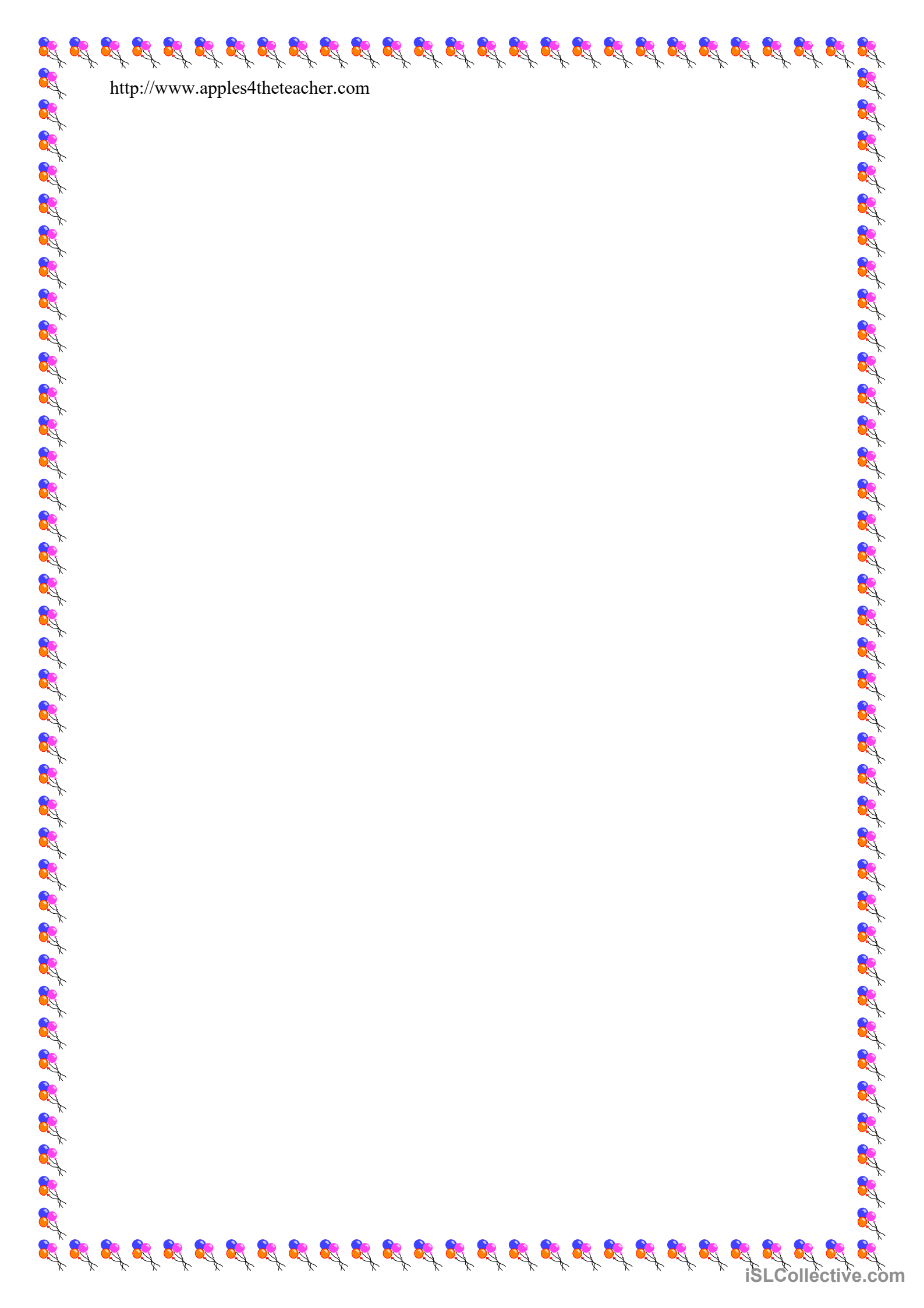
In ancient Rome, the first day of the New Year honoured Janus, the god of gates, doors, beginnings and endings - the month of January, named after Janus, was originally called 'Januarius'. Janus had two faces - one which looked ahead to see what the new year would bring, and the other looked backward to see what happened during the past year. Ancient Romans celebrated New Years by giving gifts to friends and family members - some even gave gifts to Senators in exchange for favours!

In England, Druid priests celebrated their New Year on March 10. They gave branches of mistletoe to people for charms. Later, English people followed the custom of cleaning their chimneys on New Year's Day. The English believed this brought good luck to the household for the coming year. The expression "cleaning the slate" came from this custom. It means making resolutions to correct faults and bad habits. People resolve to make themselves better in the New Year. It is still customary even today to make a list of New Years resolutions for the coming year.

True False

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Everybody celebrates New Year on 1 st January | | |
| 2. You can find farm animals in the Chinese calendar. | | |
| 3. The Egyptians used the Nile to count the years | | |
| 4. January comes from a latin word . It was a warrior in the antiquity. | | |
| 5. Making good resolutions for the new year come from an old English habit . | | |



A decorative border of colorful balloons (blue, pink, orange) with black strings, framing the page on all four sides.

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com>