

# SUPERSTITIONS

## AROUND THE WORLD

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

In many cases around the world, superstitious beliefs influence the way a culture celebrates important holidays. Here are a few examples of how different countries celebrate New Years in light of their superstitions.

### Did you know...

In the **PHILIPPINES**, a house should be completely cleaned before New Year's. The house's refrigerator must be fully stocked, and all lights be left on so that no darkness can enter the home. In many homes, all the cupboards, drawers and doors should be left open so that abundance can be welcomed into the home. Fresh fruit such as tangerines and oranges are often left in the doorways to ensure good fortune in the home.



PHILIPPINES



CHINA

In **CHINA**, all sweeping should be done the day before New Year's Day, because otherwise you might sweep all of the good fortune out of your house.

In **SPAIN**, people celebrate New Year's Eve by eating a grape for each second the clock strikes at midnight. The 12 grapes stand for good luck for each month of the upcoming year.



SPAIN



FINLAND

In **FINLAND**, a common New Year's Eve tradition is to "predict the future" by casting molten tin into a container of water. Then people interpret the shape of the metal after hardening. For example, a heart or ring shape means a wedding, a ship foretells a travel, and a pig shape means plenty of food will come in the new year.

Does your family have any special New Year's superstitions or traditions?

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