MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

How Does the World Celebrate New Year?

Visual lesson



Midnight everywhere?

On New Year's Eve, Lin, Noa and Dara visit Grandma Bea. "The new year starts at midnight!" says Lin. Noa frowns. "But is it midnight everywhere at the same time?" Grandma Bea shines a torch on her globe.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> Look at the globe and the torch. Is it midnight everywhere at the same moment?





Spin, spin

Grandma Bea turns the globe slowly. "The Earth spins round once every day," she says. "So night, and midnight, travel round the world. The new year begins in one place first, then the next, then the next."

First of all

The very first people to reach midnight live on Kiritimati, a small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. They welcome the new year before anyone else in the world!





Sydney

A few hours later, it is midnight in Sydney, Australia. Huge fireworks burst over the harbour and its big arched bridge. It is summer there, so families watch outside on the grass.

Japan

In Japan, many Buddhist temples ring a great bell at midnight, again and again, one hundred and eight times. Families listen quietly in the cold and wish for a good year.





The Philippines

In the Philippines, many families fill the table with round fruits, for a lucky year, and wear polka dots. At midnight, children jump up high. People say it helps them grow taller!

Four stars

Back at the globe, Dara sticks a tiny paper star on each place. Kiritimati, Sydney, Japan and the Philippines. Midnight is still travelling.

TALK ABOUT IT

Which place reached midnight first of all?





Spain

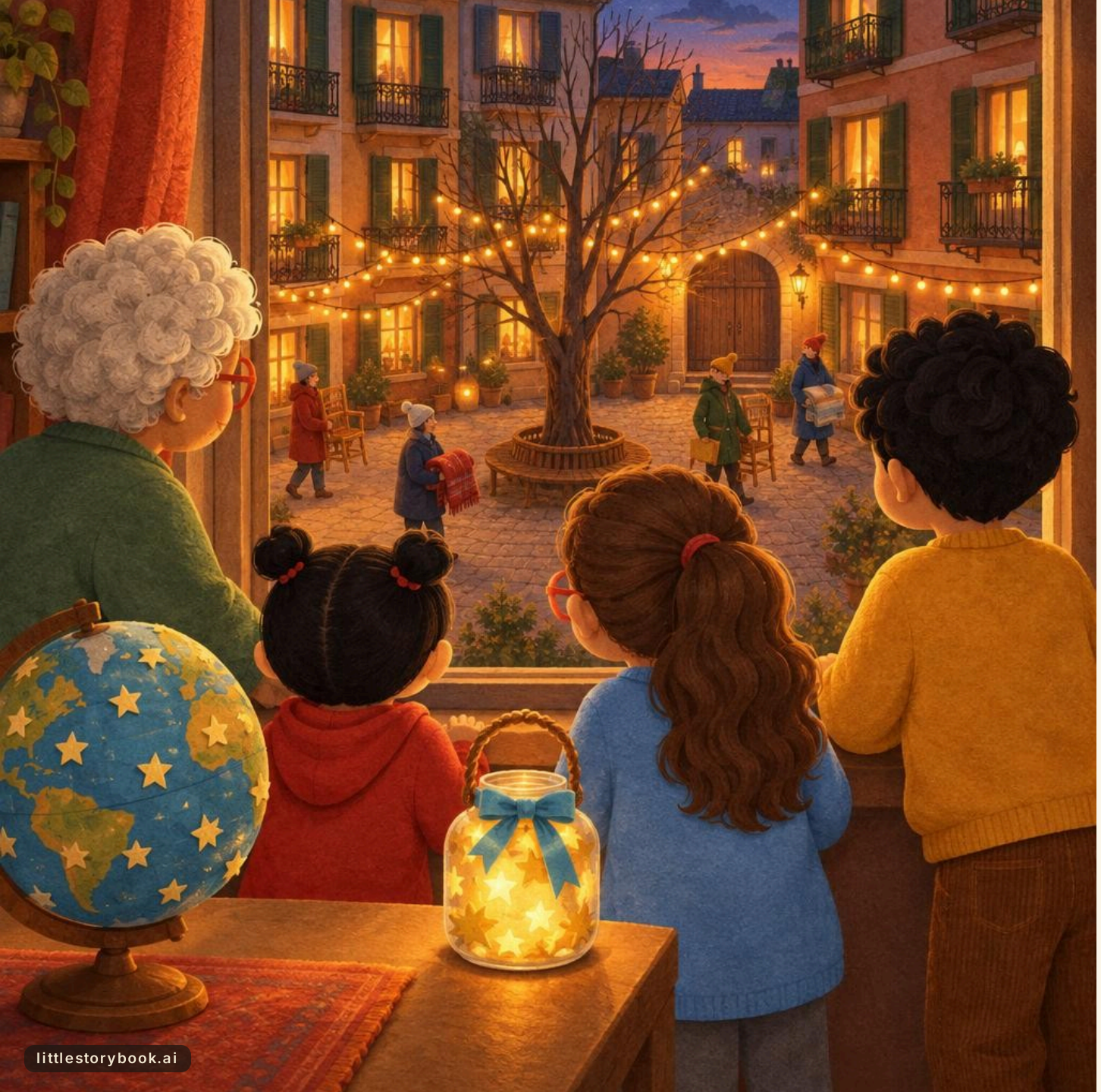
Much later, midnight reaches Spain. As the midnight bells ring, people eat a grape for each bong. Small children have their grapes cut into little pieces.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> The bells ring twelve times at midnight. How many grapes do people eat?

Another new year

"We have another new year too," says Lin. "Lunar New Year, in January or February!" Dara's family has Nowruz, on the first day of spring. And Noa's family has Rosh Hashanah, in the autumn, with apples dipped in honey.





Our turn soon

Outside, the sky grows dark. "Midnight is on its way to us," says Grandma Bea. All around the world, people say hello to the new year in their own way. How will you say hello to the new year?

Check your wonder

1 **Why does the new year start at different times?**

- **A.** Because the Earth spins, so midnight travels
- **B.** Because some clocks are slow
- **C.** Because some people go to bed early

2 **Where do people ring a temple bell one hundred and eight times?**

- **A.** Japan
- **B.** Spain
- **C.** Sydney

3 **In Spain, what do people eat at midnight?**

- **A.** Twelve grapes
- **B.** Round fruits on a big table
- **C.** Apples and honey

4 **True or false: every family's new year is on the first of January.**

- **A.** False
- **B.** True

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A 4-A

1. Yes! Midnight travels round the spinning Earth. 2. That's it. Bong, bong, bong! 3. Yes! One grape for each bong. 4. Yes! Lunar New Year, Nowruz and Rosh Hashanah come at other times.

THE END

Visual lesson

Put your child in this story

Free to try. Scan the code or visit

littlestorybook.ai/learn/en/new-year-around-the-world-for-kids

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