

INFORMATIONAL TEXT PASSAGE WRITTEN AT TWO READING LEVELS!

Name: _____

New Year's Resolutions

The start of a new year is a time for celebrating, but it's also a time for making resolutions for the coming year. New Year's resolutions are an ancient tradition that are found in many cultures and are still popular today. The new year was not always celebrated in January and it is still celebrated at different times in other cultures. The Chinese celebrate the Lunar New Year, which is customarily in January or February. The Jewish celebration of the new year, or Rosh Hashanah, usually takes place in autumn. No matter when the new year is commemorated, most cultures see it as a time for new beginnings and a time when promises and goals for the next year are set.

Ancient Babylonians were the first to leave a written record of New Year's resolutions. They celebrated the new year when crops were planted at the beginning of spring. Although ancient Babylonians were making promises to their gods, not to go to the gym or eat more salads like we do today, these can be considered early New Year's resolutions.

Ancient Romans also made New Year's resolutions. Emperor Julius Caesar moved the new year to January 1st to align with his new calendar. To celebrate the new year, Romans offered gifts to their gods and promised good behavior for the rest of the year.

During the middle ages, Europeans also made resolutions that were called "peacock vows." These were usually made primarily by medieval knights, who would gather around a peacock and pledge to behave appropriately. This usually took place around Christmas. So while it was not always at the very start of the new year, it was a type of resolution for the coming months.

Over time, Christian communities adopted the practice of marking the new year with a celebration and promises to improve their behavior. They also held a service on New Year's Eve to prevent people from going to parties outside the church. This tradition is still upheld in many churches today.

By the seventeenth century, people were writing down resolutions near the end of the year, and in 1813, the phrase "New Year's resolution" first appeared in a Boston newspaper. Since then, the concept of making a resolution on or near the new year has grown in popularity and the phrase "New Year's resolution" has become almost universally understood.

Today, many people make resolutions. Modern resolutions are often more about personal enhancement or goals than about celebrating new crops. The feelings of inspiration and hope that are present at the start of a new year are common and people around the world enjoy the opportunity to set goals to improve themselves.

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Name: _____

New Year's Resolutions

The start of a new year is a time for celebrating. It is also a time for making resolutions. The new year was not always celebrated in January. It is still celebrated at different times in other cultures. The Chinese celebrate the Lunar New Year. The Chinese New Year is customarily in January or February. The Jewish celebration of the new year, or Rosh Hashanah, usually takes place in autumn. No matter when the new year is commemorated, many people make promises and goals for the next year.

Ancient Babylonians were the first to write down New Year's resolutions. They celebrated the new year when crops were planted at the beginning of spring. The ancient Babylonians made promises to their gods as their resolutions.

Ancient Romans also made New Year's resolutions. Emperor Julius Caesar moved the new year to January 1st to align with his new calendar. To celebrate the new year, Romans offered gifts to their gods. They also promised good behavior for the rest of the year.

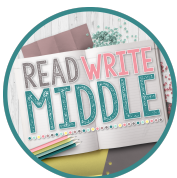
During the middle ages, Europeans also made resolutions that were called "peacock vows." These were vows made by knights who would stand around a peacock and promise to act appropriately. This usually took place around Christmas.

Later, Christians adopted the practice of making promises to improve their behavior for a new year. A church service was often held on New Year's Eve. This tradition is still upheld in many churches today.

In 1813, the phrase "New Year's resolution" first appeared in a Boston newspaper. Since then, the concept of making a resolution for a new year has grown in popularity. The phrase "New Year's resolution" is a common saying.

Today, many people make resolutions. Modern resolutions are more about personal enhancement or goals. The feelings of inspiration and hope that are present at the start of a new year are common. People around the world enjoy the opportunity to set goals to improve themselves.

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DIFFERENTIATED CONTEXT CLUES ACTIVITY!

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

- customarily
a. never b. usually c. obviously
context clues: _____
- commemorated
a. celebrated b. remembered c. denied
context clues: _____
- align
a. run into b. straighten c. pile up
context clues: _____
- vows
a. lies b. statements c. promises
context clues: _____
- adopted
a. rejected b. accepted c. advanced
context clues: _____
- conceal
a. reality b. phase c. idea
context clues: _____
- enhancement
a. problems b. growth c. selfish
context clues: _____

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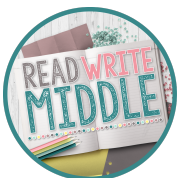
Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Determine what each word means based on the way it is used in the passage, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you.

- customarily: _____
context clues: _____
- commemorated: _____
context clues: _____
- align: _____
context clues: _____
- vows: _____
context clues: _____
- adopted: _____
context clues: _____
- conceal: _____
context clues: _____
- enhancement: _____
context clues: _____

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WRITING ASSIGNMENT AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ALSO INCLUDED!

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details to support your answer.

2. How is the celebration of a new year different around the world?

3. In what ways are the new year's traditions of the ancient Babylonians and Romans similar to more modern celebrations?

4. What is a peacock vow? What are the similarities between peacock vows and modern New Year's resolutions?

5. What does the author suggest as the reason many people make resolutions at the start of a new year?

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Writing Assignment

A new year provides people with a wonderful opportunity to look forward to setting new goals. It is also important to reflect on what you have already accomplished. Think about the past school year and determine a time that you were able to accomplish something important. In a well written paragraph, please explain what you did and why it was important. In your writing, be sure to include the following:

- Explain what you accomplished.
- Explain why it was important to you.
- Make sure you proofread your writing to check for spelling and grammar issues.

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