

# New Year's Traditions Around the World

## Russia and South Africa

A Which of these belong to Russian and which to South African New Year's tradition?

Write letter **R** for Russia and letter **S** for South Africa.



yolka



Snegurochka



snow



herring



beach party



barbecue



sunny weather



Grandfather  
Frost

B Are the sentences true or false? Read the text and find out.

### Student A

- 1) New Year is a family holiday in Russia.
- 2) Children have some champagne and caviar after dinner.
- 3) At midnight people watch king's speech on TV.
- 4) Grandfather Frost and his granddaughter Snegurochka bring presents to children.

### Student B

- 1) New Year is a family holiday in South Africa.
- 2) In the evening people enjoy the fireworks and light some firecrackers.
- 3) In some towns people throw old shoes through windows.
- 4) Another interesting tradition is the "Third New Year".

## Student A: New Year in Russia



Hi! I'm Sonya. I am from Moscow. In Russia, New Year's Eve is the first day of winter holidays. It is a family holiday so my grandparents come over. The weather is always very cold and snowy so we usually stay inside the house. My parents spend all day cooking and cleaning. My sister and I decorate "yolka", or the Christmas tree.

For dinner we usually have different salads, herring and caviar. I like Olivier salad best. It is made with mayonnaise, potatoes, carrots, pickles, green peas, eggs and chicken. Yummy! After dinner, children have some mandarin oranges while the adults write down their New Year's wishes on a piece of paper. Then, they burn the paper on the candle and drink it with champagne. At midnight we watch the president's speech on TV and then we finally go outside for a walk. We visit our friends, enjoy the fireworks, light some firecrackers and make a snowman in the backyard. But the best part of the evening are the presents, for sure. This year I want Grandfather Frost and his granddaughter Snegurochka to bring me a new bike.

### C Ask student B the following questions and fill in the fact file.

- 1) What does "jol" stand for?
- 2) Where is the biggest party?
- 3) What do people have for dinner in South Africa?
- 4) What do they throw out for good luck?
- 5) Why is the "Second New Year" celebrated?

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## Student B: New Year in South Africa



Hi! My name is Nathi. I live in Cape Town. We have a lot of fun for the New Year's Eve in South Africa. It is a family holiday and we visit our relatives. We like to spend the day outdoors because the weather is nice and sunny. There are lots of beach parties, or "jols", as we call them. The biggest one is here in Cape Town where you can party together with 80 000 people. Crazy! Since the weather is so nice, we always barbecue in the garden. In the evening we enjoy the fireworks and light some firecrackers.

There are some funny traditions, too. In some towns people throw old furniture through the window for good luck. Therefore, you must be very careful not to get hit on the head by an old chair. Ha-ha! Another interesting tradition is the "Second New Year". It is celebrated on January 2. In the past, African people were slaves and did not have any days off work except for the day after the New Year's Day. Today we sing and dance through the streets dressed in colourful clothes and have fun. It is my favourite day of the year.

### C Ask student B the following questions and fill in the fact file.

- 1) What does "yolka" stand for?
- 2) What do people have for dinner?
- 3) What do people do with their New Year's Eve wishes?
- 4) Whose speech do they watch at midnight?
- 5) Who brings the presents?



D Fill in the missing letters in the fact file.



### Russia

- “Yolka“ stands for a C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ .
- People have salads, h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and caviar for dinner.
- People b \_ \_ \_ the paper with wishes and d \_ \_ \_ \_ it with champagne.
- After dinner they watch p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ 's speech on TV.
- Grandfather F \_ \_ \_ \_ and his granddaughter Snegurocha bring presents.



### South Africa

- Jol stands for a p \_ \_ \_ \_ .
- The biggest party is in C \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ .
- People b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in the garden.
- They throw out o \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for good luck.
- “Second New Year “ is celebrated because people in South Africa used to be s \_ \_ \_ \_ and it was their only day off.

E Find the words in a word search.

K S D D W O A M D M  
F N F O T M H F C B  
Y O I R X Z C U E A  
F W R A H H O R L R  
M M E I F C R N E B  
R A W V A A U I B E  
T N O A K E G T R C  
K L R C L B E U A U  
W I K W O H N R T E  
G S S B Y J S E E P

FIREWORKS  
YOLKA  
BEACH  
BARBECUE  
CAVIAR  
FURNITURE  
SNOWMAN  
CELEBRATE

F Sonya is making the famous Olivier salad. Some words are missing from her granny's recipe. Help her figure it out.

**pickles**

**salt**

**potatoes**

**mayonnaise**

**peas**

**eggs**

**chicken**

## *Olivier Salad Recipe*

### Ingredients:

- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, peeled
- 3 carrots
- 3 hard boiled \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 jar of \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 can of green \_\_\_\_\_
- $\frac{3}{4}$  pund of cooked \_\_\_\_\_ breasts
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of \_\_\_\_\_
- a pinch of \_\_\_\_\_ and pepper

### Procedure:

First boil the carrots and the potatoes. Then cut the potatoes, carrots, eggs, pickles and chicken into small dices. Finally, mix all the ingredients with mayonnaise.

## Teacher's Notes

	<b>Russia and South Africa</b>	
<b>Grade</b>	5/6	
<b>Cross Curriculum</b>	geography	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	Begin with brainstorming New Year's traditions in Croatia. Then ask the students to do task A. Check the answers and their knowledge of the two countries in general. You can include some additional pictures.
	<b>Main part</b>	Cut out the text in two pieces and give each student only one piece. Instruct them to read the text and do task B. After that, students work in pairs and answer each other's questions below the text. Finally, they fill in the fact file for both texts ( <b>task D</b> ) and find words in the word search ( <b>task E</b> ).
	<b>Conclusion</b>	Show PowerPoint presentation Russia and South Africa.  Compare New Year's traditions in Croatia to those in Russia and South Africa orally. As a fun activity in the end, ask the students to complete the recipe for Olivier salad ( <b>task F</b> ).
<b>Additional info</b>	<a href="http://www.funrussian.com/2011/12/30/russian-new-year/">http://www.funrussian.com/2011/12/30/russian-new-year/</a> (link with additional information about Russian New Year Celebrations)  <u>Key for Olivier Salad recipe</u> <i>potatoes, eggs, pickles, peas, chicken, mayonnaise, salt</i>	