New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

1. On what date is New Year's Eve in the Gregorian calendar?

2. Which city holds the Times Square ball drop?

3. What is the name of Japan’s New Year celebration?

4. Which Scottish poet is associated with the version of Auld Lang Syne normally sung at New Year?

5. What is the usual Scottish name for New Year's Eve celebrations?

6. How many grapes are traditionally eaten at midnight in Spain?

7. What do many people in Japan ring 108 times around the New Year in the Joya no Kane tradition?

8. Which U.S. Southern dish often combines black-eyed peas and rice for New Year's Day?

9. Which California city hosts the Rose Parade?

10. What name is often given to an icy New Year's swim?

11. What name is given to a goal or promise made at the start of a year?

12. Which double-faced Roman god gave January its name?

13. Which piece of music traditionally features at the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Concert and has "Danube" in its title?

14. What kind of fruit is represented by the large object in Atlanta’s Peach Drop tradition?

15. In which city would crowds watch fireworks near Big Ben on New Year's Eve?

16. If January 1 falls on a Friday, what day of the week is January 2?

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Hanukkah

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

17. How many nights does Hanukkah last?

18. What is the common name of the nine-branched lamp used at Hanukkah?

19. What is the helper candle called?

20. What traditional spinning top is used in a Hanukkah game?

21. How many sides does a traditional dreidel have?

22. What are the fried potato pancakes often eaten during Hanukkah called?

23. What are the jelly-filled doughnuts often eaten during Hanukkah called in Hebrew?

24. What word is used for coins, including chocolate coins given at Hanukkah?

25. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of which city's Temple?

26. What group led the revolt associated with the Hanukkah story?

27. According to a traditional account, what substance lasted eight days?

28. In which Hebrew calendar month does Hanukkah begin?

29. On which day of Kislev does Hanukkah begin?

30. How many Hanukkah lights, excluding the shamash, are lit on the first night?

31. How many Hanukkah lights, excluding the shamash, are lit on the fourth night?

32. Hanukkah’s Hebrew name is commonly translated as dedication or departure. Which is correct?

Kwanzaa

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

33. On what date does Kwanzaa begin?

34. How many days does Kwanzaa last?

35. In what year was Kwanzaa first celebrated?

36. Who created Kwanzaa?

37. What language provides many of the names for Kwanzaa symbols?

38. What is the ceremonial candleholder called?

39. What collective Swahili name is used for the seven candles of Kwanzaa?

40. What colour is the centre candle?

41. Which two colours appear on either side of the black candle?

42. What phrase names the seven principles of Kwanzaa?

43. Which Kwanzaa principle means unity?

44. Which Kwanzaa principle means creativity?

45. Which principle is called Imani, meaning what in English?

46. What name is given to the woven mat used to display Kwanzaa symbols?

47. What is the name for the unity cup?

48. On what date does the final day of Kwanzaa fall?

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Thanksgiving in the USA and Canada

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

49. In which month do Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving?

50. In which month is U.S. Thanksgiving?

51. Canada’s current Thanksgiving date was set by proclamation in which decade?

52. Which U.S. founding-era president issued a national Thanksgiving proclamation in 1789?

53. Which Thursday in November is U.S. Thanksgiving today?

54. Which Monday in October is Canadian Thanksgiving?

55. Which U.S. city hosts the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

56. Which U.S. president issued a national Thanksgiving proclamation in 1863?

57. Which people joined English settlers at the 1621 Plymouth harvest gathering?

58. In what present-day U.S. state is Plymouth?

59. What bird is usually associated with the main dish at Thanksgiving dinner?

60. What tart red berries often appear as sauce alongside turkey?

61. What horn-shaped basket symbolises abundance?

62. What is the name given to the sauce made from meat juices and served with a roast?

63. Which shopping day follows U.S. Thanksgiving?

64. What round orange squash commonly flavours a Thanksgiving dessert?

Lunar New Year

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

65. What type of calendar determines the date of Chinese New Year?

66. How many animals are in the traditional Chinese zodiac cycle?

67. What is the first animal of the traditional Chinese zodiac sequence?

68. Which mythical animal appears in the Chinese zodiac?

69. What colour is commonly associated with good fortune during Chinese New Year?

70. What is traditionally given inside many red envelopes?

71. What animal dance uses several performers to operate a long body on poles?

72. Which citrus fruit is often given as a symbol of good fortune during Lunar New Year?

73. What Chinese festival traditionally marks the end of Lunar New Year festivities?

74. What sweet rice balls are often eaten at the Chinese Lantern Festival?

75. What is the usual name for Vietnamese Lunar New Year?

76. What is the Korean Lunar New Year called?

77. What Korean soup often served at Seollal contains sliced rice cakes?

78. What mythical creature is the subject of a Chinese New Year legend about noise and the colour red?

79. Which animal follows the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac?

80. What name is commonly given to the dinner on the eve of Chinese New Year when families gather?

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Diwali, Eid and Nowruz

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

81. Which festival is often called the festival of lights in Indian traditions?

82. What small oil lamp is often lit during Diwali?

83. What word describes a colourful floor design often made for Diwali?

84. What broad name describes the sweets shared at many South Asian celebrations?

85. What observance ends when Eid al-Fitr begins?

86. What is the name for the evening meal that breaks a fast during Ramadan?

87. What is the name for the pre-dawn meal during Ramadan?

88. Which Eid is associated with the Hajj pilgrimage season?

89. On what calendar are the dates of Eid based?

90. What greeting uses the Arabic word meaning blessed at Eid?

91. Which festival marks the Persian New Year?

92. What astronomical event marks Nowruz in the Iranian calendar?

93. What is the customary name for the arrangement of seven symbolic items for Nowruz?

94. What sweet, often eaten at Nowruz, is made with germinated wheat in parts of Central and West Asia?

95. Which present-day country was historically known as Persia and celebrates Nowruz as its New Year?

96. Which fire-jumping celebration takes place before Nowruz in Iranian traditions?

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Easter, Passover and Spring

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

97. On what day of the week does Easter always fall?

98. What day comes immediately after Easter Sunday?

99. What Christian observance is traditionally associated with the forty days leading up to Easter?

100. Which day begins Lent in many Western Christian churches?

101. What day before Ash Wednesday is often called Pancake Day in the UK?

102. What spiced fruit bun eaten around Easter is marked with a cross?

103. What name describes an outdoor activity in which children look for hidden eggs?

104. What name is given to Ukrainian eggs decorated by drawing designs in wax before dyeing?

105. What unleavened bread is eaten at Passover?

106. What is the ritual meal at the start of Passover called?

107. Which book guides the order of the Passover Seder?

108. What story is recounted at Passover?

109. What vegetable is commonly used to represent the bitter herbs on a Seder plate?

110. What name is given to the piece of matzo traditionally hidden or set aside during a Seder?

111. Which Hebrew month contains Passover?

112. What Hebrew phrase begins the Four Questions at a Passover Seder?

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National Days and Remembrance

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

113. What date is Canada Day?

114. What date is Independence Day in the United States?

115. In which year did Canadian Confederation take effect?

116. Which document is commemorated by the U.S. Fourth of July?

117. In what year was the U.S. Declaration of Independence adopted?

118. At what time is the two-minute silence traditionally observed on Armistice Day in the UK?

119. What flower is worn as a symbol of remembrance in the UK and Canada?

120. By what name is November 11 observed as a U.S. federal holiday?

121. When is U.S. Memorial Day observed?

122. On what date is Juneteenth observed?

123. What U.S. city is associated with the events commemorated by Juneteenth?

124. On what date do France's national celebrations commonly called Bastille Day take place?

125. What is the name of the French national anthem often performed on Bastille Day?

126. What public holiday in Australia and New Zealand is observed on April 25?

127. What title is given to Canada's national anthem?

128. Which tree's leaf appears on the flag of Canada?

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Halloween and Autumn Festivals

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

129. On what date is Halloween?

130. What Irish and Scottish Gaelic festival is often discussed in histories of Halloween?

131. What vegetable was traditionally carved into lanterns in parts of Ireland?

132. What do children traditionally say when collecting sweets from neighbours on Halloween?

133. What warm drink is made from pressed apples and often served in autumn in North America?

134. What large orange vegetable is sculpted into many modern jack-o'-lanterns?

135. What does the name Día de Muertos mean in English?

136. Which flower is closely associated with Día de Muertos altars?

137. What Spanish word names a home altar or offering for Día de Muertos?

138. On which two days of November is Día de Muertos commonly observed?

139. What pastry is shared during the Mid-Autumn Festival?

140. What is Korea's autumn harvest festival called?

141. What is the common name for the full moon closest to the autumn equinox?

142. What British date is usually associated with Bonfire Night?

143. Who is the best-known conspirator associated with the Gunpowder Plot?

144. Which English city hosts a famously large Bonfire Night celebration in East Sussex?

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Seasons, Dates and Calendar Puzzles

Write one answer per question. Give this sheet to each player or team.

Name or team _____ Score _____

145. How many months in a Gregorian calendar year have 31 days?

146. What extra date appears in a Gregorian leap year?

147. How many days are in a Gregorian leap year?

148. Which two animals follow the Rat, in order, in the Chinese zodiac?

149. In which hemisphere does the December solstice mark the start of astronomical summer?

150. Which season comes immediately before autumn in the Northern Hemisphere?

151. If a festival is held on the third Friday, what is the earliest possible date of the month?

152. What is the latest date for the second Monday of any month?

153. If a holiday always falls on a Monday, what day of the week is its eve?

154. Which of the four Gregorian years 1900, 2000, 2100 and 2200 is a leap year?

155. What astronomical event takes its name from Latin for “equal night”?

156. What word names the dates when the Sun reaches its most northerly or southerly apparent position?

157. In which month does the Northern Hemisphere enter astronomical winter?

158. What is the final date of February in a common year?

159. How many days after December 26 is January 1?

160. If the first night of a festival is a Saturday, on which weekday is its eighth night?

HOST COPY / ANSWER KEY

Holiday Trivia

Allow equivalent wording when the question has more than one accepted form.

Round 1 · New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

1. December 31.
2. New York City.
3. Shōgatsu.
4. Robert Burns.
5. Hogmanay.
6. Twelve.
7. Temple bells.
8. Hoppin' John.
9. Pasadena.
10. A polar bear plunge or polar bear dip.
11. A New Year's resolution.
12. Janus.
13. The Blue Danube waltz.
14. A peach.
15. London.
16. Saturday.

Round 2 · Hanukkah

17. Eight.
18. A hanukkiah, also called a Hanukkah menorah.
19. The shamash.
20. A dreidel.
21. Four.
22. Latkes.
23. Sufganiyot.
24. Gelt.
25. Jerusalem.
26. The Maccabees.
27. Lamp oil.
28. Kislev.
29. The 25th.
30. One.
31. Four.
32. Dedication.

Holiday Trivia

Allow equivalent wording when the question has more than one accepted form.

Round 3 · Kwanzaa

33. December 26.

34. Seven.

35. 1966.

36. Maulana Karenga.

37. Swahili.

38. The kinara.

39. Mishumaa saba.

40. Black.

41. Red and green.

42. Nguzo Saba.

43. Umoja.

44. Kuumba.

45. Faith.

46. Mkeka.

47. Kikombe cha Umoja.

48. January 1.

Round 4 · Thanksgiving in the USA and Canada

49. October.

50. November.

51. The 1950s.

52. George Washington.

53. The fourth Thursday.

54. The second Monday.

55. New York City.

56. Abraham Lincoln.

57. The Wampanoag.

58. Massachusetts.

59. Turkey.

60. Cranberries.

61. A cornucopia.

62. Gravy.

63. Black Friday.

64. Pumpkin.

Holiday Trivia

Allow equivalent wording when the question has more than one accepted form.

Round 5 · Lunar New Year

65. A lunisolar calendar.
66. Twelve.
67. The rat.
68. The dragon.
69. Red.
70. Money.
71. A dragon dance.
72. Mandarins or tangerines.
73. The Lantern Festival.
74. Tangyuan, or yuanxiao, depending on the region.
75. Tết.
76. Seollal.
77. Tteokguk.
78. Nian.
79. The Snake.
80. A reunion dinner.

Round 6 · Diwali, Eid and Nowruz

81. Diwali, or Deepavali.
82. A diya.
83. Rangoli.
84. Mithai.
85. Ramadan.
86. Iftar.
87. Suhoor, or sehri.
88. Eid al-Adha.
89. The Islamic lunar calendar.
90. Eid Mubarak.
91. Nowruz.
92. The spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere.
93. Haft-sin.
94. Samanu, also called sumalak in some traditions.
95. Iran.
96. Chaharshanbe Suri.

Holiday Trivia

Allow equivalent wording when the question has more than one accepted form.

Round 7 · Easter, Passover and Spring

97. Sunday.

98. Easter Monday.

99. Lent.

100. Ash Wednesday.

101. Shrove Tuesday.

102. A hot cross bun.

103. An Easter egg hunt.

104. Pysanky.

105. Matzo, or matzah.

106. A Seder.

107. The Haggadah.

108. The Exodus from Egypt.

109. Horseradish is one common choice.

110. The afikoman.

111. Nisan.

112. Mah Nishtanah.

Round 8 · National Days and Remembrance

113. July 1.

114. July 4.

115. 1867.

116. The Declaration of Independence.

117. 1776.

118. 11 a.m.

119. A poppy.

120. Veterans Day.

121. The last Monday in May.

122. June 19.

123. Galveston, Texas.

124. July 14.

125. La Marseillaise.

126. Anzac Day.

127. O Canada.

128. A maple.

Holiday Trivia

Allow equivalent wording when the question has more than one accepted form.

Round 9 · Halloween and Autumn Festivals

129. October 31.

130. Samhain.

131. A turnip.

132. Trick or treat.

133. Apple cider.

134. A pumpkin.

135. Day of the Dead.

136. The marigold.

137. Ofrenda.

138. November 1 and 2.

139. A mooncake.

140. Chuseok.

141. The Harvest Moon.

142. November 5.

143. Guy Fawkes.

144. Lewes.

Round 10 · Seasons, Dates and Calendar Puzzles

145. Seven.

146. February 29.

147. 366.

148. Ox and Tiger.

149. The Southern Hemisphere.

150. Summer.

151. The 15th.

152. The 14th.

153. Sunday.

154. 2000.

155. An equinox.

156. A solstice.

157. December.

158. February 28.

159. Six.

160. Saturday.

Holiday Trivia

Cut along the dashed lines. Keep the card answer key for the host.

CARD 01

Which day following December 25 is a named holiday in both the UK and Canada?

A. Kwanzaa
B. Passover
C. Boxing Day
D. Hogmanay

CARD 02

Which observance is represented by the date that immediately precedes All Saints' Day?

A. Kwanzaa
B. Hogmanay
C. Passover
D. Halloween

CARD 03

Which observance has a closing feast called Karamu?

A. Kwanzaa
B. Halloween
C. Passover
D. Boxing Day

CARD 04

Which Jewish holiday includes the custom of avoiding leavened bread?

A. Kwanzaa
B. Halloween
C. Passover
D. Boxing Day

CARD 05

Which Scottish New Year celebration features a custom called first-footing?

A. Hogmanay
B. Passover
C. Boxing Day
D. Kwanzaa

Holiday Trivia

Cut along the dashed lines. Keep the card answer key for the host.

CARD 06

Which capital city is home to Big Ben at New Year?

A. London
B. New York City
C. Jerusalem
D. Pasadena

CARD 07

Which city is home to Times Square at New Year?

A. London
B. New York City
C. Pasadena
D. Jerusalem

CARD 08

Which city is associated with the U.S. Juneteenth events of 1865?

A. Jerusalem
B. Galveston
C. New York City
D. London

CARD 09

Which city holds a famous Tournament of Roses parade?

A. Jerusalem
B. New York City
C. Galveston
D. Pasadena

CARD 10

Which city stands at the centre of the traditional Hanukkah Temple story?

A. New York City
B. Jerusalem
C. Galveston
D. London

Holiday Trivia

Answer key for the 10 cut-out cards.

01. C — Boxing Day

02. D — Halloween

03. A — Kwanzaa

04. C — Passover

05. A — Hogmanay

06. A — London

07. B — New York City

08. B — Galveston

09. D — Pasadena

10. B — Jerusalem