

Speakers: Lingokids.

Cowy: Surprise.

Lisa: Why are you blasting confetti all over me, Cowy?

Cowy: We still have leftover confetti poppers from New Year's. We should celebrate.

Lisa: It's not New Year's anymore.

Elliot: You mean we have to wait a whole year to celebrate New Year's again?

Cowy: That's no fun. I don't want to wait.

Host: Maybe we don't have to. Welcome to Stories for Kids by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning. This is our first episode of 2024, perfect timing to learn about different kinds of New Year's celebrations. Do people celebrate the New Year on the same day? Can we make our own celebration? Let's find out.

Cowy: Why would we wait so long to celebrate? I want to pop my confetti now.

Lisa: Because New Year's Day is about celebrating the New Year. It's all about celebrating a fresh start. This year has to end first to celebrate the beginning of the next year.

Cowy: How many more months do we have to wait?

[music]

Elliot: Twelve months?

Host: That's right, Elliot. There are twelve months in a year.

Cowy: That's a long time.

Billy: [whistles]

Host: That's true, Billy. Not everyone celebrates New Year's on the same day.

Lisa: You mean people celebrate it whenever they want?

Host: Well, not exactly. Not everyone uses the same calendar to count the days.

Lisa: Huh? We can pick our own calendar?

Cowy: I want a calendar with pictures of puppies. [puppies howl]

Elliot: I want one with pictures of fruits.

Cowy: I don't mean calendars with different pictures. What I mean is that people count the days and months of the year in different ways. The seasons, too.

Elliot: I'm still confused.

Host: Billy, on what day and month do you celebrate New Year's Day?

Billy: [whistles]

Host: January 1st. That's because you use a calendar called the Gregorian Calendar, which celebrates the New Year on the 1st of January. For some, the New Year might start when spring arrives, with flowers blooming and everything becoming fresh and new.

Elliot: I love spring.

Lisa: Me, too. All the pretty flowers and birds.

Host: Then you would love Nowruz, the Persian New Year. It's celebrated in March on the first day of spring.

Lisa: That's only a few months away, Cowy. We can use your confetti poppers, then.

Cowy: It's still too far.

Elliot: What about Chinese New Year?

Host: That's right. It's also called Lunar New Year. People in many different countries celebrate Lunar New Year, not just China. Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and many more.

Cowy: Oh.

Lisa: Why do they call it Lunar New Year?

Host: Because the people who celebrate it follow a calendar based on the cycles of the moon.

Cowy: Oh, a moon calendar. I love the moon.

Host: Yes, it's called a Lunar Calendar.

Cowy: Great. Let's celebrate the Lunar New Year. When do we start?

Billy: [whistles]

Host: Billy is right. According to his calculations, it will fall on February 10th this year.

Elliot: Huh? What do you mean this year? Isn't it the same every year?

Host: Actually, one of the cool things about the Lunar New Year is that it falls on a different date sometime between January and February.

Lisa: Is that because of the moon?

Host: Exactly, Lisa. It depends on the moon and the seasons. When winter is almost

over and there's a new moon in the sky, it's time for the Lunar New Year. There are many other New Year celebrations all around the world.

Lisa: It's like different people having their own party when they think it's the right time for a new beginning.

Cowy: I like that. Parties all year round.

Host: It's a nice reminder that there are so many people with different cultures, each with their unique traditions and beautiful ways to celebrate.

Cowy: None of these days are soon enough. I just want to celebrate something, anything, as long as I can pop my confetti.

Elliot: Why don't we make our own celebration?

Host: I don't see why not. What should we celebrate?

Cowy: Confetti.

Host: Well, maybe we can think of something more than confetti. A holiday celebration usually has a nice meaning or story behind it. Any ideas?

[music]

Lisa: Well, we did learn a lot about different kinds of New Year celebrations.

Elliot: I didn't even know people use different calendars.

Cowy: Yes, we can celebrate learning about different calendars.

Host: I like that. The day of the calendar. A day to celebrate different calendars around the world and learn about how people organize the year and celebrate in different ways.

Cowy: Yay. Day of the calendar. Let's celebrate.

Lisa: Okay, bring out those confetti poppers.

All: Yay

Host: Well, Lingokids listeners, today we learned about some of the different ways people celebrate the New Year and we even created our very own celebration. We're glad you were here to celebrate our first-ever calendar day with us. If you have a unique way of celebrating the New Year or any other holiday, we would love to hear from you. Just ask a grown-up to help you send us a message. Don't forget to join us next episode to continue play-learning together.

[music]

[00:06:25] [END OF AUDIO]