New Year's Eve: Global celebrations usher in 2015

(Version 2: E2-E3)

Adapted from http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-30640656

Name _____ Date _____

There have been celebrations to mark the start of 2015 around the world, with firework displays in a lot of big cities. New Zealand held the first display, and in Australia the display in Sydney Harbour looked beautiful! Up to 1.5 milion people watched it. The city's Lord Mayor said the recent hostage crisis in the city had brought people together.

Musician Elton John for the first time sang in New York City on New Year's Eve. Thousands of people celebrated in New York's Times Square for the city's annual party, but this year security was tight as a protest took place nearby against police use of force and the state of race relations in the country. Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco were among the other American cities to see in the New Year.

There were a lot of celebrations in Europe. In London, the fireworks were at the London Eye by the River Thames. In Berlin a huge open air concert was held, while in Paris the main road was closed to traffic so that people could watch the display at the Arc de Triomphe. The start of 2015 was also important to Lithuania, as it became the 19th country to join the Euro currency.

There was shock in Asia as a crush in Shanghai, China, saw 35 people die marking the start of 2015. Celebration plans were also not happy in Indonesia because of the recent Air Asia crash. But across the rest of Asia there were big parties, with a sound and light show at Beijing's Olympic stadium and an eight-minute firework display in Hong Kong.

In Brazil, more than one million people gathered on Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach.

These are just some of the celebrations that happened around the world last week!

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Try to answer these questions. Write in full sentences.

1. Which country is Sydney in?

2. In what city were some people crushed to death?

3. London's celebrations were near which famous landmark?

4. How many times has Elton John played in New York?

5. Which is the latest country to have the Euro?

6. What is the name of Rio de Janeiro's beach?

7. Why was there tight security in New York?

8. What does the Lord Mayor of Sydney think was on the minds of those watching the city's firework display?

New Year's Eve Curriculum mapping and answers

Coverage and range statements provide an indication of the type of content candidates are expected to apply in functional contexts. Relevant content can also be drawn from equivalent (school) National Curriculum levels and the Adult Literacy standards. ✓ *indicates the main coverage and range skills that are (or can be) covered in this resource. However, these will vary with the student group and how the resource is used by the teacher.* **Reference:** Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2.* http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/
Entry Level 2 Functional Skills English
Reading skill standard: Read and understand straightforward texts that explain, inform or recount information
a) Understand the main events in chronological texts ✓ b) Read and understand simple instructions and directions c) Read and understand high frequency words and words with common spelling patterns ✓ d) Use knowledge of alphabetical order to locate information
Entry Level 3 Functional Skills English
Reading skill standard: Read and understand the purpose and content of straightforward texts that explain, inform and recount information
a) Understand the main points of texts ✓ b) Obtain specific information through detailed reading ✓ c) Use organisational features to locate information d) Read / understand texts in different formats using strategies / techniques appropriate to task

** This resource also covers many adult literacy curriculum http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/sflcurriculum elements.

ANSWERS

1. Which country is Sydney in? Australia
2. In what city were revellers tragically crushed to death? Shanghai
3. London's celebrations were near which famous landmark? London Eye
4. How many times has Elton John played in the USA? Trick question! Don't know
5. Which is the latest country to have the euro? Lithuania
6. What is the name of Rio de Janeiro's famous beach? Copacabana
7. Explain why there was tight security in New York. Answer to be based on: a protest took place nearby against police use of force and the state of race relations in the country.
8. According to the article, what took place in Hong Kong last year? Answer to be based on: widespread street protests.
9. What does the Lord Mayor of Sydney suggest was on the minds of those watching the city's firework display? Answer to be based on: recent hostage crisis