

Hogmanay

By Sarah Gudgeon

1. Read

Hogmanay is the Scottish name for New Year's Eve. To celebrate the arrival of the New Year, Scottish people take part in street festivals or organise parties with their friends and neighbours. A Scottish party where there is live music with traditional Scottish dancing is called a **ceilidh**. People love to welcome in the '**bells**' (the chimes of the clock when it strikes midnight) with huge firework displays and in small communities friends and neighbours rush to each other's houses to offer their best wishes for the New Year. The first people inside the house are called '**first footers**' as they are the first people to put their foot through the door among cries of 'Happy New Year'.

While people celebrate in small towns and cities across Scotland, it is Edinburgh that attracts visitors from around the world. The Edinburgh Hogmanay celebrations in the capital are famous for their spectacular firework displays and three day long **festivities**. There is a torch lit procession on December 30th from the Royal Mile to Carlton Hill and this historical route is alive with the glow of fire. On December 31st there is a big party in the **heart** of the city centre near the castle with live music and fireworks that soar upwards into the sky. On January 1st, New Year's Day, there is a fancy dress parade down the High Street and after the parade, some very brave Scots splash around in the River Forth. Brrrh!

2. Complete the sentences with one of the words in bold from the text.

- a. Scottish people celebrate _____ on December 31st.
- b. People often go to a _____ to listen to live music and dance.
- c. When people hear the midnight _____ they launch fireworks into the sky.
- d. Scots welcome their neighbours into their homes and the _____ bring greetings for a Happy New Year.
- e. In the capital city Hogmanay _____ last for three days.
- f. There is always a big party in the _____ of Edinburgh city centre on December 31st.

3. Send your friends an email suggesting a trip to Scotland for New Year's Eve. Tell them about all the things you could do there.

Teacher's Notes

2. Complete the sentences with words from the text

- a. Scottish people celebrate **Hogmanay** on December 31st.
- b. People often go to a **ceilidh** to listen to live music and dance.
- c. When people hear the midnight **bells** they launch fireworks into the sky.
- d. Scots welcome their neighbours into their homes and the **first footers** bring greetings for a Happy New Year.
- e. In the capital city Hogmanay **festivities** last for three days.
- f. There is always a big party in the **heart** of Edinburgh city centre on December 31st.

3. Example

Depending on the overall level of your class, you may wish to show them this example before setting task 3. They can then use it as a template. For stronger students, let them do the email alone and then show them this example afterwards so that they can compare their work with the 'answer'.

Hi everyone,

I was thinking about organising a trip to Scotland for New Year's Eve.

They have Hogmanay celebrations in Edinburgh that last for three days.

We could go to the torch-lit procession on the 30th December, to the huge party in the city centre on the 31st and then to the fancy dress parade the day after.

Some people even jump in the River Forth on New Year's Day but I don't fancy that – it must be freezing!

Anyway, let me know what you think.

Love Freddie