Celebrating 2015

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Whether starting at 2:00 A.M. on December 31st or 4:00 A.M. on January 1st to our time, 2015 is coming. Normally in the United States, we watch the New Year’s Eve Celebration in Times Square in New York City, New York, waiting for the glowing ball to drop. Once the countdown reaches “0” people will kiss or honk car horns, but what about in other countries? Many countries have different traditions so only a few will be chosen. Throughout the world though, some traditions are common such as singing and dancing, putting various items outside of the house, exchanging kisses, and fireworks.In Germany, people will drop molten lead into cold water and try to tell the future based on the shape the lead makes. Lentils are served to people on the first day of the new year in Brazil, and on the day before, priestesses dress in a specific outfit for a ceremony dedicated to the goddess of water. To signal the new year, guns are fired and church bells are rung in South Africa. Also, the first few days of the new year are filled with a carnival of colorful costumes and dancing. In Thailand, the new year festival is a three day holiday, called Songkran, which takes place from April 13 to April 15. People will throw water on one another and wash images and statues of Buddha believing that it will bring good rain. Also, rice, fruit, and other food is given to the monks in the monasteries, and fish and birds are released into the wild. However, no matter what the tradition is, 2015will be notably celebrated.