In many parts of Canada, people go to the freezing waters and jump in at midnight, known as the Polar Bear Swim.

Since 1907, thousands of people gather each New Year’s Eve in Times Square to watch the ball drop while millions of people across the U.S. watch the broadcast.

In Spain, and other Spanish-speaking countries, people eat 12 grapes for the 12 months for good luck. The custom is to eat the grapes as soon as the clock strikes midnight.

In Germany and Austria, people read molten lead instead of tea leaves. They heat up some lead in a spoon and when it’s melted, pour the molten lead into cold water. The shape of the lead will tell what’s ahead of you in the coming year. The shapes are open to interpretation.

In South Africa, Cape Town hosts a big party filled with music, dancing, fireworks, and food. The party is followed by the Minstrel Carnival on New Year’s Day.

In many Asian countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, it is a tradition to make loud noises such as ringing bells 108 times (Japan), setting off fireworks (China), and banging pots and pans (Philippines) in order to scare off evil spirits and misfortunes for the upcoming year.

In Brazil, it is likely that people celebrate New Year’s on the beach. Brazilians throw white offerings such as flowers or jewelry to lemanjá, the Brazilian goddess of the sea.