

AROUND THE WORLD

Making Wishes

There are many different traditions and customs for making wishes around the world.



If you find a four-leaf clover, make a wish and then throw the clover away. (Ireland)



When you see a new moon, hold a coin up to the moon and wish for money. As the moon increases, your money will increase. (Jamaica)



If you make a wish as you throw a coin or a pebble into a wishing well, your wish may come true. (Many countries)



Make a wish before you blow out the candles on a birthday cake. (The United States and other countries)



If you open a nutshell and find two nuts instead of one, give one to a friend. Each of you should make a wish. If you're the person who remembers to say "lucky nut" the next morning, you will get your wish. (Russia)



At midnight on New Year's Eve, eat one grape for each of the twelve chimes of the clock. Make the same wish as you eat each grape and your wish will come true. (Spain, Portugal, and Venezuela)



If you catch a falling leaf, make a wish. (Japan)



When you see lightning, make a wish. (The Philippines)



Hold one end of a wishbone (from a chicken or turkey) while someone else holds the other end. Make a wish, then break the wishbone. If you get the longer piece, your wish will come true. (The United States)



When you see the first full moon of the year, make a wish. (Korea)



Stand with your back to a fountain. Throw three coins, one at a time, over your shoulder into the water. Each time make the same wish. If you hear the coins splash into the water three times, your wish will come true. (Europe)



When you see the first star in the evening sky, say this poem and make a wish:

Star light, star bright,
First star I see tonight.
I wish I may, I wish I might
Have the wish I wish tonight.

(Many countries with similar poems in different languages)

Which of these traditions for wishing did you know about? What are some traditions that you know?