

## 2016 level 1 second text

Hi Jamie

How are you? Already it was 5 years ago that I stayed with your family.

You asked me about New Year here in Spain to compare it with New Year in NZ for your project. Here, the last day of the year is called Nochevieja. Usually all the Spanish people celebrate this night with a big family dinner at home. After, at midnight, we eat 12 grapes. We eat one grape each time the bell rings. I am not totally sure about the origin of the tradition of the 12 grapes. Later, everyone goes out to party. For this reason, apart from the grapes, New Year is similar to that in NZ. We also have fireworks and drink champagne.

What is very different is the Matariki festival or the Maori New Year. Matariki is the Maori name for a constellation of stars. The festival begins when there is a new moon at the beginning of winter and therefore you can see this constellation. It's normally celebrate in June and July. Traditionally people got together during the cold months of winter. It was a time to be with the family and also to prepare the ground for the new season. Furthermore, they wrote songs and the older people taught the younger ones different traditions and other things.

Now the celebrations are different but the theme of family and the ideas of preserving and celebrating traditions continues. When I was in NZ during Matariki I went to see a Kapa Haka show and different exhibitions of modern Maori art. However, the two things that I liked most were that I had the opportunity to eat a hangi and that I learnt to build a traditional kite.

So, maybe it's better to compare the Spanish New year with the Matariki festival for your school project.

A hug,