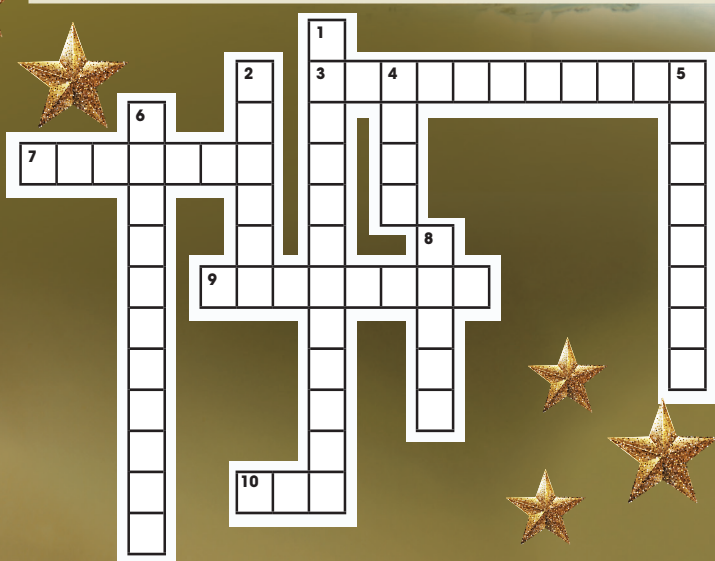
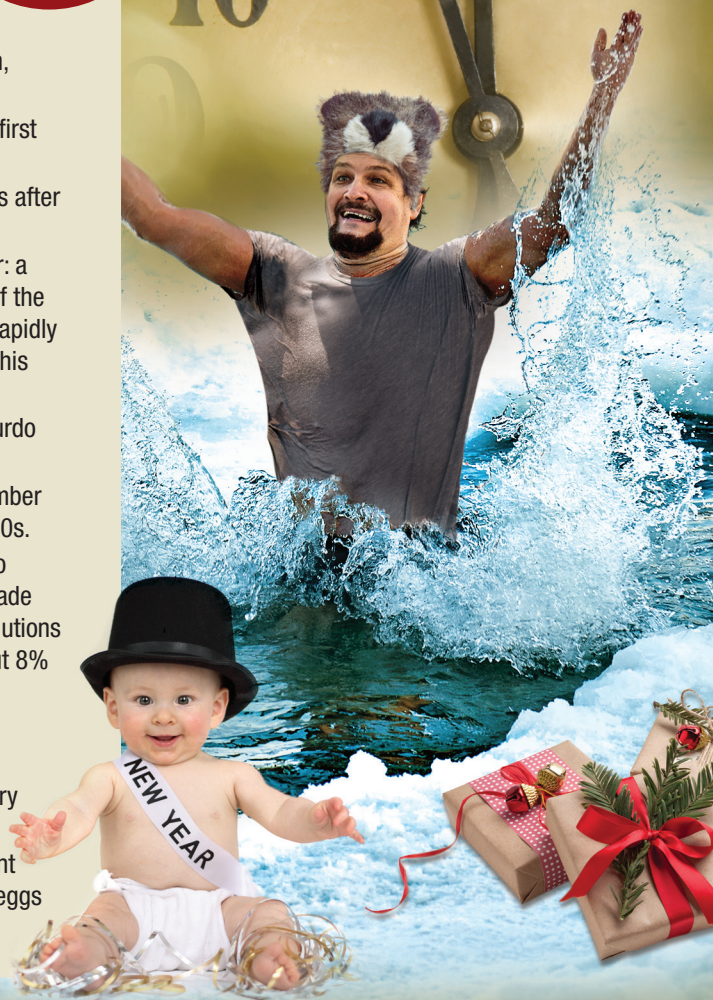


- 1** Read the text and use the information to complete the clues and solve the crossword puzzle.

# New Year

## Interesting Facts

- The first New Year's celebrations were held around 2,000 BCE in Babylon, Mesopotamia – an ancient region of south-western Asia.
- It was the Roman emperor Julius Caesar who officially declared that the first day of the new year would be 1st January in 46 BCE.
- England accepted 1st January as New Year's Day in 1752, over 150 years after Scotland.
- In traditional stories, the new year is often represented by Baby New Year: a baby wearing a diaper, a black top hat and a sash showing the number of the new year worn over his shoulder. As the year continues, Baby New Year rapidly grows to become Father Time, an old white-haired man who hands over his duties to the new Baby New Year at midnight on 31st December.
- Every year on New Year's Eve, the people who work at Antarctica's McMurdo research station hold a music festival called IceStock.
- Auld Lang Syne is the song sung at the stroke of midnight on 31st December in English-speaking countries around the world. It was written in the 1700s.
- The custom of making New Year's resolutions – promises people make to themselves to do something – goes back to ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to please the gods. Today, most of the New Year's resolutions people make are about health and fitness. Statistically, though, only about 8% of these promises are kept!
- In Canada, some people celebrate New Year's Day by doing a polar bear plunge. This involves taking a swim in icy waters.
- In Germany, New Year's Eve is called Silvester, in honour of the 4th century Roman saint Pope Silvester I.
- Exchanging gifts on New Year's Eve is a tradition that goes back to ancient times, when the Persians would give eggs as gifts for the new year. The eggs were meant to symbolise productivity.



### ACROSS

- Very few of the \_\_\_ people make for the new year are kept.
- Julius Caesar was an \_\_\_ in ancient Rome.
- IceStock is an annual New Year's music \_\_\_ in Antarctica.
- Swimming in \_\_\_ waters is a New Year's Day tradition in Canada.

### DOWN

- For the Persians, eggs represented \_\_\_.
- Auld Lang Syne is sung at the \_\_\_ of midnight.
- Baby New Year wears a \_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ accepted 1st January as New Year's Day before England.
- Babylon was in \_\_\_.
- Pope Silvester I was a Roman \_\_\_.

- 2** **ICT** In groups, search for more interesting facts about New Year and prepare a digital presentation.