

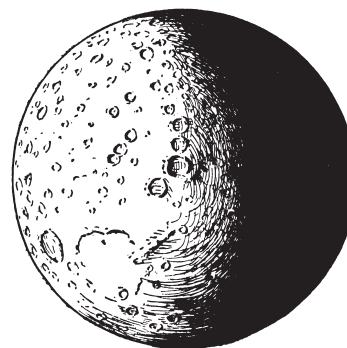
Winter Solstice marks the longest night of the year, and also marks the first day of winter. People from around the world celebrate this day in many different ways!

Dong Zhi Festival China

This day, which celebrates the solstice, is very important in the traditional Chinese calendar. In the north, dumplings are eaten, and in the south, people enjoy Tangyuan (glutinous rice balls).



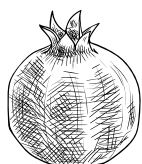
This year, Winter Solstice falls on December 21st.



How does your family celebrate the start of winter?

Shab-e Yalda Iran

This means "Night of Birth," and celebrates the return of light after the longest night of the year. Fresh red fruits, nuts, and dried fruits are eaten, and poetry is read.



Soyal Ceremony Hopi Nation, Arizona

During this sixteen-day celebration of the return of light, there is a traditional sun ceremony, and stories and lessons are told to children.

