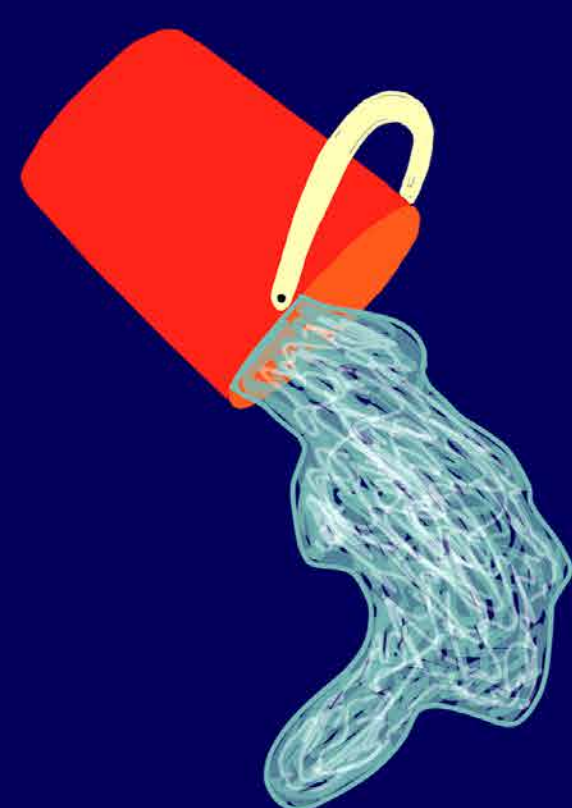New Year's Eve is a family, home celebration. At the same time, it is a tradition that symbolizes a process of cosmic scale: the turning of the earth around the sun. This, in fact, simple geometric rotation is reflected in the culture of almost all cultures, peoples, and nations.

In this mini-study, we focus on those rituals, home decoration, objects of everyday life, cults, households, and culture that make up this holiday.

These seems to be quite small objects and traditions: such as the star on the Christmas tree, the salad bowl of Olivier, Santa's beard, opening champagne, television, and others mark the connection of man with, no less than, a global and unstoppable process of the flow of time.

Bucket of water
Latin America

Throwing a bucket of water out the window means that you are saying goodbye to the old year and welcoming the new.

Tió de Nadal
Spain

On December 8, a plate of food is placed in front of Tio to cajole the log. On Christmas Eve children start beating him with sticks and singing songs, making him "poop" with presents.
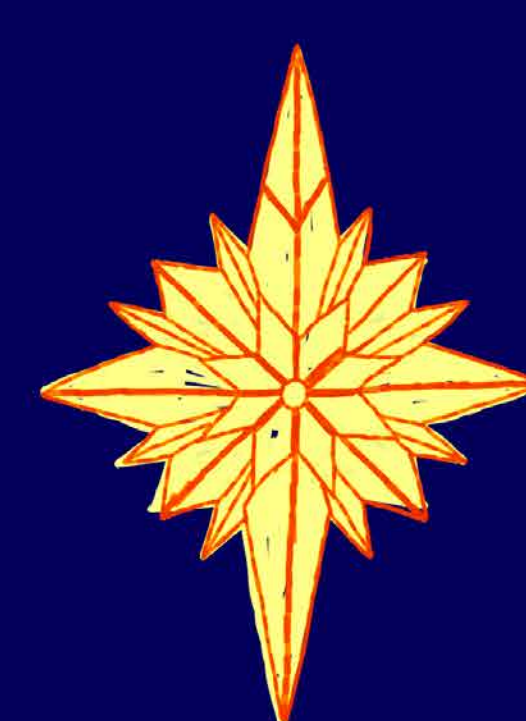
Christmas Lottery
Spain

Held annually since 1812, it is the second oldest lottery in the world.
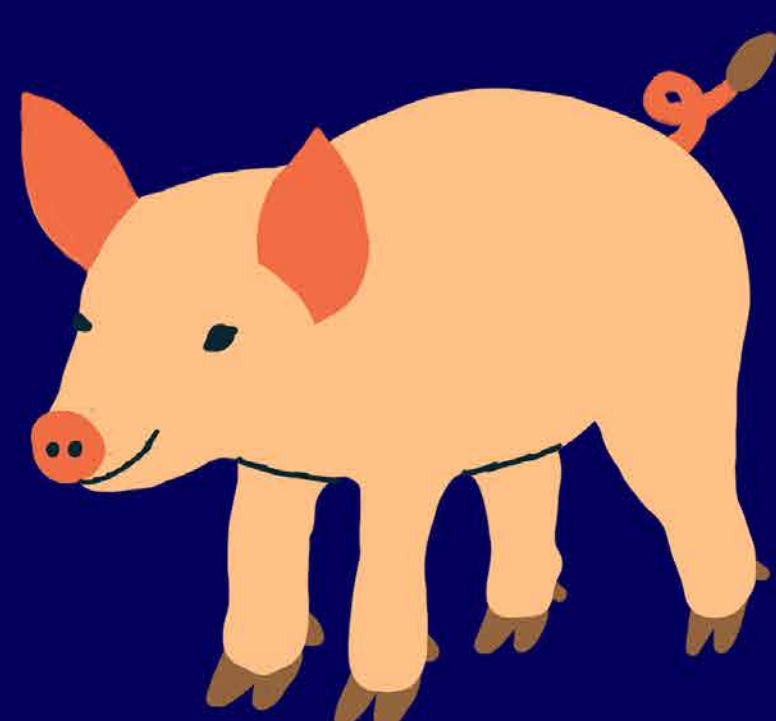
Star of Bethlehem
Catholic Church

A heavenly apparition so called by the Magi, according to Matthew's Gospel. When they saw it at sunrise and decided that a "king of the Jews" had been born, they came to Jerusalem to worship it.
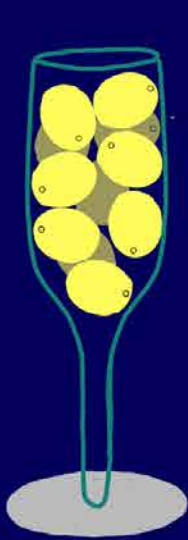
Christmas Piggy
Europe

The pig is a symbol of good luck.

12 grapes of different varieties
Spain, Latin America

In the late 1800s, well-to-do families ate grapes and drank champagne on Christmas Eve. In an attempt to mock this tradition, a group of "madrileos" from the working class gathered in the Puerta del Sol in the Spanish capital to eat their grapes and drink champagne.

Burning the Old Year
Latin America

The custom dates back to the time when the Spaniards faced an epidemic of yellow fever, and as a sanitary measure, they made garment knots for the dead from a small straw and thus warded off the plague.

Olivier
Russia, CIS countries

In Soviet times, it was prepared from available products and only for the New Year because of the scarcity of ingredients.

Yule goat
Scandinavia

The legend says, that in the XI century, St. Nicholas appeared riding a human-sized goat as a symbol of victory over the devil.

Dinner for one
Europe

A comedy sketch written by English writer Laurie Wiley for the theater in the 1920s.

Chicken feather Christmas
Indonesia

Artisans in Bali create a traditional Indonesian Christmas tree by hand from chicken feathers.

Upside-down Christmas tree
German-speaking countries

In the 12th century, the spruce was hung down from the rafters because of the lack of space in the house.
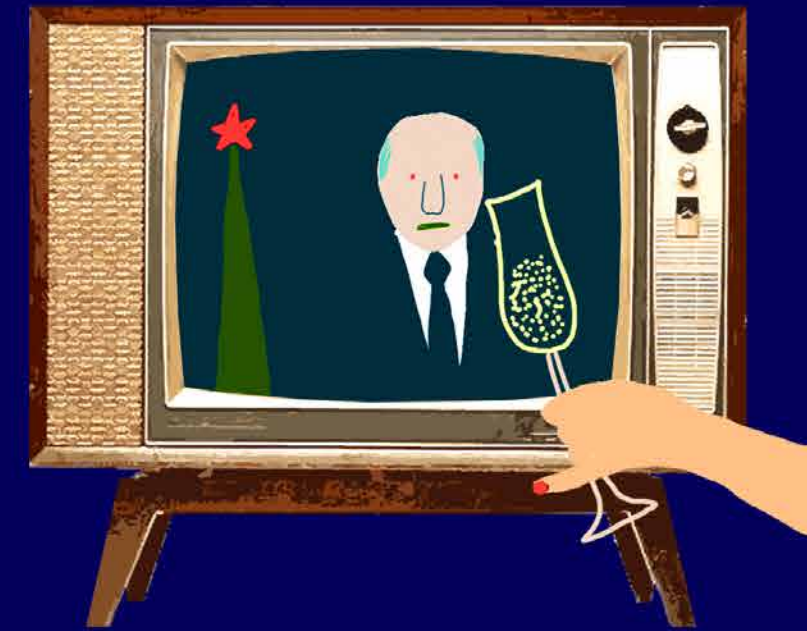
Christmas Tree Spire
Germany

Decorating a tree with a spire became fashionable after the construction of Stalinist skyscrapers in Moscow.
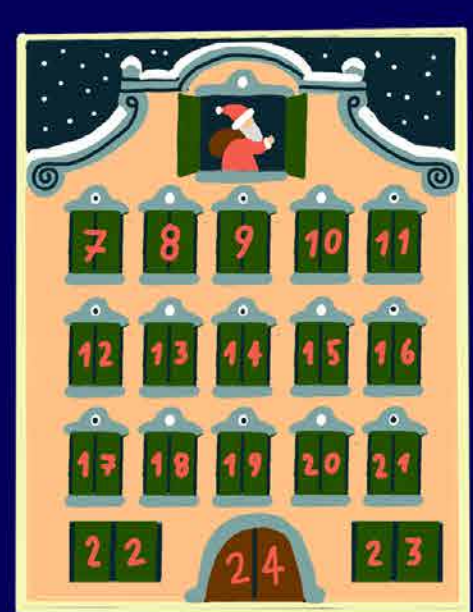
Congratulations to the President
Russia

The first New Year's address to the citizens of the USSR on December 31, 1941 was read by Mikhail Kalinin with a summary of news from the front. Leonid Brezhnev introduced the tradition of televised New Year's addresses on December 31, 1970.

Advent calendar
Catholic Church

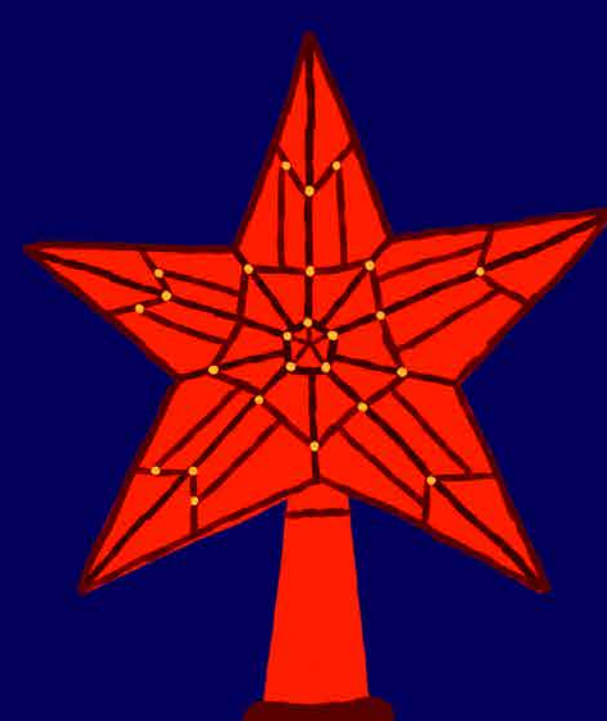Gerhard Lang invented it to count down the time remaining until Christmas in 1905.

Mari Lwyd
South Wales

An old Welsh Christmas rite of driving a horse.

Five-pointed star
USSR

In 1935, during the USSR's first New Year's celebration, the Bethlehem Star was replaced with a five-pointed red one from the Spasskaya Tower of the Moscow Kremlin.

Nutcracker
Germany

In the 17th century, German miners carved dolls out of wood as caricatures of dukes and barons who oppressed the rights of the poor. The story of Alexandre Dumas, from which Tchaikovsky's ballet was based, became a Christmas classic in 1892.

Christmas Tree
Whole world

Even before our era, evergreen trees were placed alongside other divine beings. The modern tradition of the Christmas tree was started by Martin Luther in 1605.

Dinner at KFC
Japan

In 1974, the manager of the first KFC in the country saw an opportunity to introduce a new tradition and launched a "Kentucky for Christmas" marketing campaign.

Red underwear
Italy, Brazil

A tradition dating back to the Middle Ages and used by male males who wore a red drapery over their crotch to protect themselves from witches.

Rauhnacht
Austria

A time that is said to have been suitable for exorcisms or invocations of spirits, for contact with animals, or for the practice of divination since early modern times

Throw old things out the window
Italy

You let go of what is useless, and it gets rid of the evil accumulated during the year to make room for the new.

Hiding broomsticks
Norway

There is a pagan belief that evil witches come out on Christmas Eve and ride around on brooms. So Norwegians hide all the brooms in the house in the safest place so that the witches won't find them.
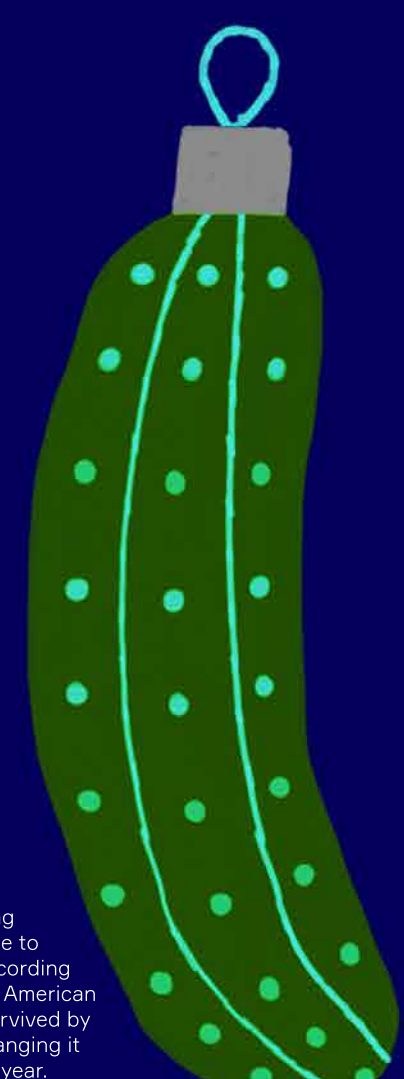
Caganer
Spain

A figure of a Catalan nativity scene. Kaganer Demonstrates that no one can be prepared for the appearance of Jesus. It also has an egalitarian meaning about an action that all of us.

Christmas pickle
USA

In the 1880s, a glassblower in the United States invented the German tradition of hanging a cucumber on a Christmas tree to increase sales of his wares. According to another version, during the American Civil War, a captured soldier survived by eating a cucumber and then hanging it on his Christmas tree the next year.

Cheppo
Italy

Cheppo symbolizes the gift of God to man, fruits and nuts are the gifts of the Earth, and gifts represent the gifts of man.

Zambomba
Spain, Latin America

The instrument accompanies the singing of Christmas carols.

Chichilaki
Georgia

On January 1 people in Georgia celebrate St. Basil the Great Day, who is considered the harbinger of the new year. The Georgian Christmas tree symbolizes his beard.

Christmas stocking
Catholic Church

According to legend, St. Nicholas gave three poor sisters gold coins and threw them down the chimney. One coin fell into a pair of shoes left on the hearth and another into a pair of socks that were hanging by the fire to dry.
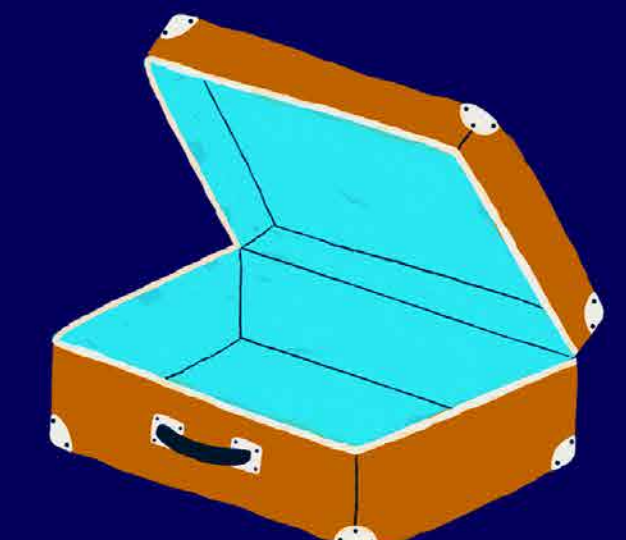
Caramel Cane
Germany

The choirmaster of Cologne Cathedral in the 17th century, faced with the problem of how to silence children during the service, and despairing of achieving silence by punishment, ordered long candy sticks from a local confectioner.
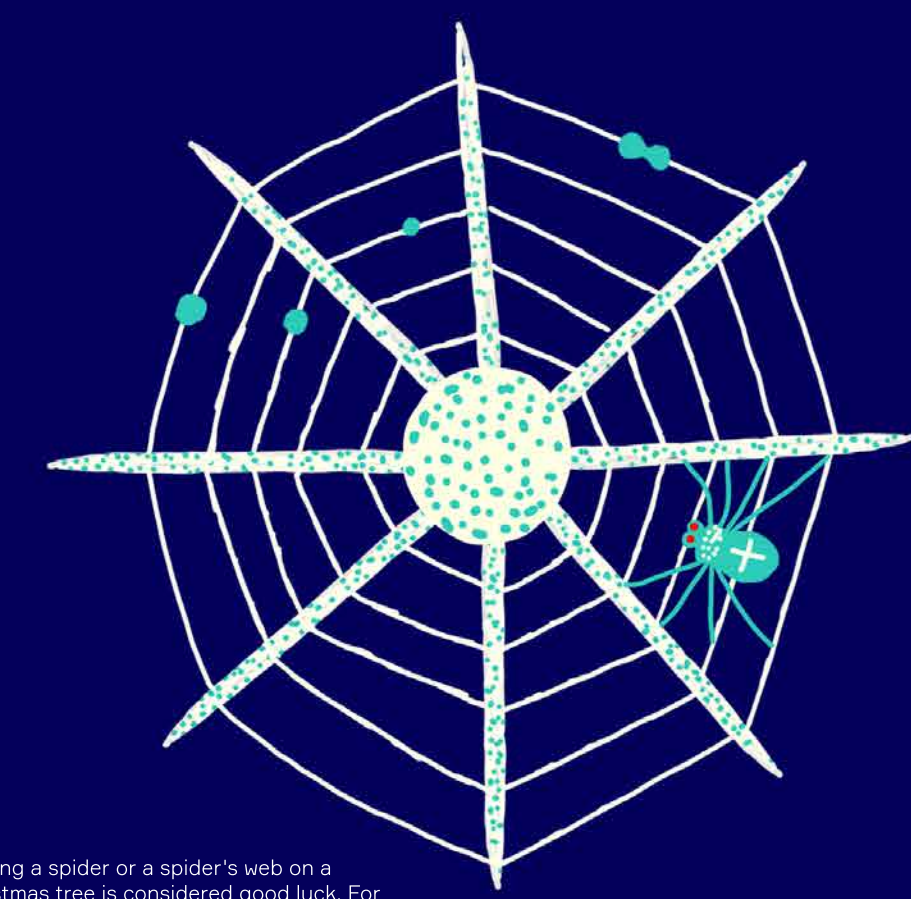
Empty suitcase
Peru

You have to pick up an empty suitcase and walk for exactly 12 minutes before New Year's Eve and be home by 12:00 a.m.
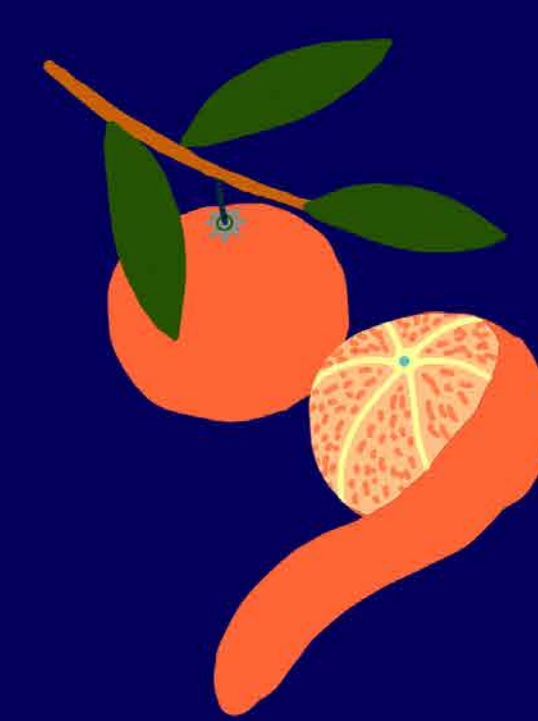
Christmas web
Eastern Europe

Finding a spider or a spider's web on a Christmas tree is considered good luck. For this purpose, they decorate Christmas trees with artificial spider webs. This gave rise to the tradition of decorating the Christmas tree with tinsel.

Tangerines
USSR, China

It is a symbol of financial well-being, so every guest who came to celebrate the New Year, among other gifts must present the hosts two tangerines.