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| **お節** | These are traditional foods that are eaten in Japan during the New Year. These foods are put in small boxes and each food has a special meaning. HAPPY NEW YEAR! |
| **凧あげ** | This is a New Year activity in which people fly kites. These kites are made with bamboo and paper. There may be pictures of famous people from history on these kites.  |
| **かるた** | This is a card game that uses pictures. One player explains a picture and the other players race to take the card.  |
| **福笑い** | This is a New Year’s game in which there is a woman with a blank face. One player, with their eyes closed, must put the eyes, nose, and mouth on the woman. |
| **餅** | This is a food that is made with rice. This food is made by hitting it over and over again with a wood hammer. You eat this food on New Year’s Eve and it was warm and had many beans inside. |
| **甘酒** | This is a drink that is sweet and warm. This is something that many people drink during the winter and is served at shrines and temples around the New Year.  |
| **おみくじ** | These are fortunes that are sold at Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. These fortunes tell you about your success with school, money, love, and sports.  |
| **お年玉** | This is money given to children by parents or older relatives during the New Year.  |
| **門松** | These are decorations that are put in front of doors to welcome the god of the New Year. These decorations are made with bamboo, pine, and flower. |
| **十二支** | These are 12 animals that represent each year. According to the old story, these 12 animals came together to eat a large dinner. This year is the year of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| **節分** | This is a holiday that is in early February. On this day, some people dress like demons and everyone else must scare them away. They throw dried soybeans and say “Out with the devil! In with good luck!” |
| **こたつ** | This is a special table used during the winter. It is a short table that is above a heater and is covered with a futon. It is for keeping your legs and feet warm during the cold months! |
| **除夜の鐘** | On New Year’s Eve, Buddhist temples ring a bell 108 times. Ringing the bell 108 times is to remove old wishes before the New Year. |
| **おでん** | This is a warm food cooked in one pot. Foods like eggs, daikon, fish, and konjac are boiled in a dashi broth. This food might be sold by the streets in the winter. |
| **焼き芋** | This is a warm roasted sweet potato. These are sometimes sold at *conbini* during the winter.  |
| **絵馬** | This is a wood tablet with a picture. On the back of this tablet, people write thanks or prayers and hang them at a shrine.  |