



Name: Answer Key

Date: _____

Norooz A Celebration of Spring! The Persian New Year

By Gail Hejazi

What did you learn from the book?

Use the words in the word bank to complete the sentences.

Aide ("Aid-ee")	bonfires	Chahar Shanbeh Soori
cleaning	equator	Haft Seen
Haji Firouz	Norooz	picnic
rice	shopping	spoon beating
spoons	spring	visiting

1. The name for the Persian New Year is Norooz. It translates to "New Day".
2. In Iran, the New Year is celebrated on the first day of spring.





3. For the month before Norooz, people spend their time cleaning the house thoroughly.
4. The stores are busy with people shopping for new outfits for the Norooz parties, and all the ingredients for an amazing Norooz meal.
5. Chahar Shanbeh Soori is the last Wednesday before Norooz.
6. Families gather together and build small bonfires in the streets and jump over the fire.
7. People go through the streets banging on pots and pans with spoons, knocking on doors and asking for treats. This is called "Qashohg-Zany," or "spoon beating." They are clearing the way for good luck in the New Year!
8. The music of Haji Firouz in the streets fills everyone with excitement! His songs mean Norooz is just around the corner!





9. A special Haft Seen table is set in the home. It will have seven items on it that begin with the sound "S." Each item symbolizes something good for the New Year.
10. At the exact moment when the sun crosses the equator signaling the beginning of spring, the family gathers around the Haft Seen table. They wish each other, "Aideh Shomah Mobarak!" or "Happy New Year!"
11. The children receive "Aide," a gift of new paper money or shiny coins, from all the adult relatives.
12. They share a special New Year's meal of "Sabzi Polo Mahi," or fish and rice with herbs, and "Kookoo Sabzi."
13. For twelve days, when schools and many businesses are closed, they celebrate Norooz by visiting their friends and family.
14. On the thirteenth day, called "Seezdeh Bedar," or "going out on the thirteenth," everyone heads outdoors for a picnic. This is the last day of the New Year holiday.

