



Directions

- 1. Take turns reading this information about St. John's Eve (the holiday from Night on Bald Mountain).**
- 2. Within your group, everyone should answer the questions.**

St. John's Eve

St. John's Eve is a celebration on June 23, the night before the Feast of St. John the Baptist. It happens at the same time as the summer solstice which marks the longest day of the year. It is a happy time of gathering with friends and family and eating good food.

This holiday goes back thousands of years when people celebrated the sun and summer. The most common thing associated with St. John's Eve is fire. Ancient people thought these fires would keep away evil spirits. Now, bonfires are built on beaches and in the streets. Tradition says that anyone who jumps over a fire three times on this night will have their troubles burned away.

Questions

- What is your favorite holiday?**
- Do you do anything similar to what is done on St. John's Eve?**
- Why do you think people still celebrate this holiday?**

