**Vocabulary:** **Seasons in 3D**



**Vocabulary**

* Axis – an imaginary line around which an object rotates.
	+ Earth’s axis runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
* Equinox – one of the two days of the year in which the length of the day is equal to the length of the night.
	+ On the equinoxes, neither the Northern *Hemisphere* nor the Southern Hemisphere is tilted toward or away from the Sun.
	+ In the Northern Hemisphere, the spring equinox occurs around March 21, and the fall equinox occurs around September 22.
* Latitude – a location’s distance north or south of the equator.
	+ Latitude is measured in degrees north or south.
	+ The latitude of the equator is 0°, the latitude of the North Pole is 90° N, and the latitude of Washington, D.C., is 38° N.
* Northern Hemisphere – the part of Earth located north of the equator.
* Revolve – to move around another object.
	+ The path most celestial bodies follow as they revolve around another celestial body is called an *orbit*. Most orbits are elliptical in shape.
* Rotate – to spin around an axis.
* Solar energy – amount of energy from the Sun that a location receives in a day.
	+ Solar energy is measured in watts per square meter (W/m2).
	+ The term *solar energy* can also refer to any type of radiation from the Sun.
* Solar intensity – the amount of solar energy striking a location in a single hour.
* Southern Hemisphere – the part of Earth located south of the equator.
* Summer solstice – the longest day of the year.
	+ In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice occurs around June 21. In the Southern Hemisphere, the summer solstice occurs around December 21.
* Winter solstice – the shortest day of the year.
	+ In the Northern Hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs around December 21. In the Southern Hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs around June 21.