



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/m^2).
 - 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.

