

Vocabulary: Summer and Winter



Vocabulary

- Axis – an imaginary line through the center of Earth that connects the North Pole to the South Pole.
 - Earth rotates about its axis once every 24 hours.
 - Earth's axis is tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees.
- Equator – an imaginary line around the middle of Earth.
- Hemisphere – half of a sphere.
 - The *northern hemisphere* is the half of Earth north of the equator.
 - The *southern hemisphere* is the half of Earth south of the equator.
- Latitude – angular distance north or south of the equator.
 - The latitude of the equator is 0°.
 - The latitude of the North Pole is 90° N.
 - The latitude of the South Pole is 90° S.
- Season – one of the major divisions of the year, usually based on regular weather changes.
 - In most places, the year is divided into four seasons: winter, spring, summer and autumn (fall). Each season is three months long.
 - In tropical regions, it is more common to refer to rainy season and dry season.
- Summer solstice – the first day of summer.
 - The summer solstice is the day with the longest period of daylight. Outside of the tropics, it is also the day when the noon Sun is highest in the sky.
 - In the northern hemisphere the summer solstice occurs on or near June 21.
 - In the southern hemisphere the summer solstice occurs on or near December 21.
- Winter solstice – the first day of winter.
 - The winter solstice is the day with the shortest period of daylight. It is also the day when the noon Sun is lowest in the sky.
 - In the northern hemisphere the winter solstice occurs on or near December 21.
 - In the southern hemisphere the winter solstice occurs on or near June 21.