**Vocabulary: Seasons: Earth, Moon, and Sun**



**Vocabulary**

* Altitude – in astronomy, the angle between an object in the sky and the horizon.
	+ If the Sun is directly overhead, it has an altitude of 90°. If the Sun is on the horizon, it has an altitude of 0°.
* Axis – an imaginary line around which an object rotates.
	+ Earth’s axis runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
* Azimuth – the compass direction of a celestial object.
	+ You can think of azimuth as compass bearings. Azimuth tells you the direction of an object in the sky.
* 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.
	+ The spring equinox occurs around March 21, and the fall equinox occurs around September 22.
* Horizon – the line along which the sky and the Earth appear to meet.
* Latitude – a location’s angular 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 39° N.
* Revolution – the movement of an object 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.
* Rotation – the spinning of an object around an axis.
* Solstice – one of the two days of the year on which the sun reaches its greatest apparent distance north or south.
	+ The longest day of the year is the summer solstice. The shortest day of the year is the winter solstice.
	+ In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice occurs around June 21, and the winter solstice occurs around December 21.