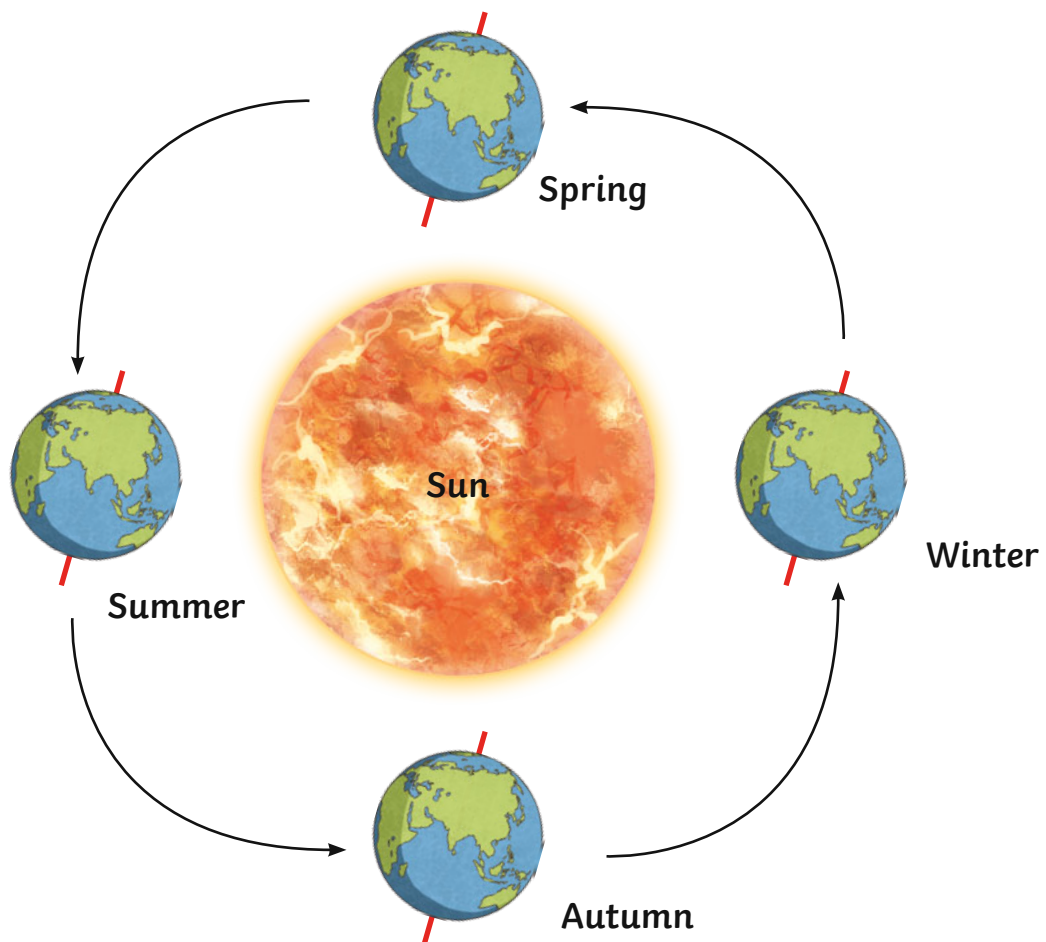


Summer Solstice

The equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. Above the equator is the northern hemisphere. Below the equator is the southern hemisphere.

Can you imagine a pole going through Earth from the North Pole to the South Pole? This pole would be the Earth's axis. The Earth spins round on this axis. The axis makes the Earth lean or tilt over.

The Earth moves on a path around the Sun. This takes around a year. At different times of the year, some places on Earth are nearer to the Sun than others.



This picture shows the seasons in the northern hemisphere.

Can you see how the northern hemisphere leans towards the sun in summer?

What is the Summer Solstice?

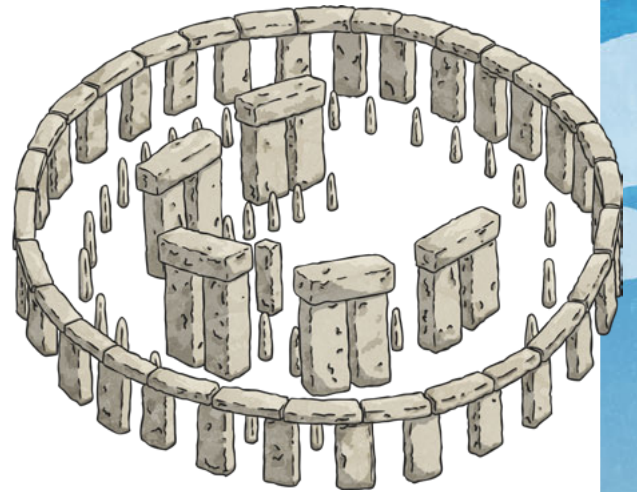
The Summer Solstice happens when the North Pole is most tilted towards the sun. The Summer Solstice happens around 21st June. This is the longest day and shortest night of the year in the northern hemisphere.

Solstice Celebrations

For thousands of years, there have been solstice celebrations around the world. Today, bonfires and parades mark the Summer Solstice.

In England, some people gather at Stonehenge, which is believed to have been an important place long ago. At the Summer Solstice, some of the stones at Stonehenge are in line with the rising sun.

On the Orkney Islands, Summer Solstice is celebrated at the ancient standing stone circle of the Ring of Brodgar.



Questions

1. The Equator is
at the North Pole.

an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.

the sea.
2. The Earth's path around the Sun takes

one day.

one month.

one year.

Complete these sentences:

3. The Summer Solstice happens when _____.
4. The Summer Solstice is the longest _____ and the shortest _____ of the year.
5. In England, some people gather at _____ to mark the Summer Solstice.