

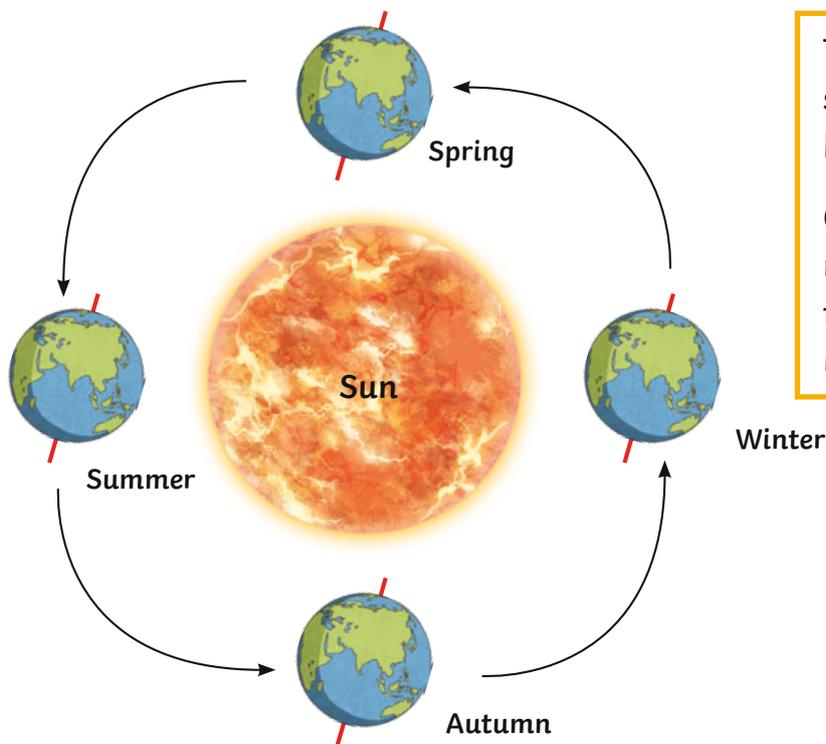
Summer Solstice

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 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.

If you live in the northern hemisphere, Earth is tilted closer to the Sun in the summer, giving more light and heat.



This picture shows the seasons in the northern hemisphere.

Can you see how the northern hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun in summer?

What is the Summer Solstice?

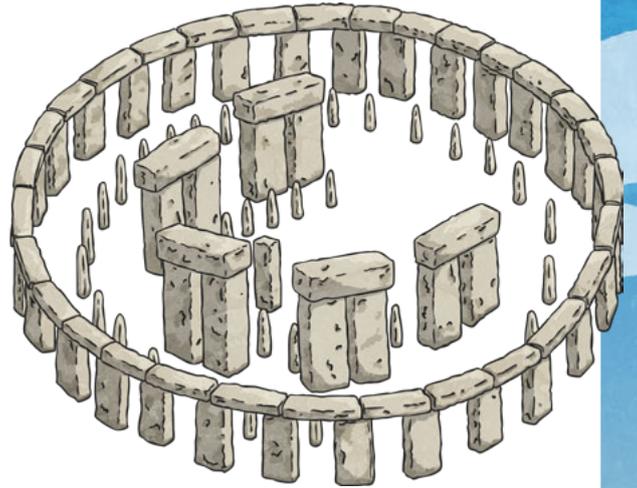
The Summer Solstice happens when the North Pole is most tilted towards the sun. The Summer Solstice happens around 21st June. This is the longest day and shortest night of the year in the northern hemisphere.

Summer Solstice in the Far North

Around the Summer Solstice, countries in the far north, like parts of Greenland and Alaska, have daylight all day long.

Solstice Celebrations

For thousands of years, there have been solstice celebrations. Today, bonfires and parades mark the Summer Solstice. In England, many 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. What is the equator?

The equator is _____.

2. What is the part of the world above the Equator called?

The part of the world above the Equator is called _____.

3. What happens when part of the Earth is closer to the Sun?

When part of the Earth is closer to the Sun it gets more _____.

4. When does Summer Solstice happen?

the North Pole is most tilted towards the Sun.

the South Pole is most tilted towards the Sun.

it is summer.

Questions

5. What happens in countries in the far North around the Summer Solstice?

Countries in the far North

are dark all day long.

are cold all day long.

have daylight all day long.

6. Why do you think people long ago celebrated Summer Solstice?

People long ago celebrated Summer Solstice because

it was their holiday.

it was warm.

it was a time of year when it wasn't so dark.