

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Are Days Longer In Summer?

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You know that Earth's seasons are caused by the tilt of the Earth's axis. When the tilted North Pole points toward the sun, the Northern Hemisphere has summer. It gets more of the sun's rays. At the same time, the South Pole is tipped away from the sun. The Southern Hemisphere gets less sunlight. It has winter. Six months later, the Earth has traveled halfway around the sun. The tilted North Pole points away from the sun. The Northern Hemisphere has winter. The Southern Hemisphere has summer, because the South Pole is tipped towards the sun. But why are days longer in summer?



Again, the answer has to do with Earth's tilted axis. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. At noon, the sun is high in the sky. When it is summer in the northern hemisphere, the sun is at its northernmost position from the equator. Because the sun is high in the sky, there is more distance between the horizons for it to travel. There are more hours between sunrise and sunset. The sun rises earlier and sets later in the day. Nights are shorter.

In the winter, the sun is at its southernmost position from the equator. During Northern Hemisphere days, the sun is lower in the sky than it is during summer. It rises in the southeast and sets in the southwest. There is less distance between the horizons for the sun to travel. It rises later in the day and sets earlier. There are fewer daylight hours in winter. Nights are longer. The farther the location is from the equator, the more change in length of daylight there will be.

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### Questions

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1. Why are days longer in summer?

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Earth's tilt causes \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. more daylight hours in summer
- B. Earth's seasons
- C. fewer daylight hours in winter
- D. all of the above

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?
- A. to express the writer's personal feelings about winter
  - B. to explain why summer days are longer than winter days
  - C. to inform readers about Earth's trip around the sun
  - D. to persuade readers that summer is better than winter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Identify what type of text this is.
- A. literature that tells about a culture
  - B. informational text that tells how to do something
  - C. informational text that explains something
  - D. literature that shares a myth about days and nights
5. Summer and winter are opposites. Words with opposite meanings are called antonyms. Name two more words used in the story that are antonyms.

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