

Notes for Earth's Seasons

Earth's Tilt

- Earth is tilted on its axis by 23.5 degrees
- Earth's tilted axis is the reason for the seasons

Winter

- Hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun
- Light strikes at an angle – less intense sunlight
- Sun sits lower in sky – shorter day
- Less intense light and shorter days = colder temperatures

Summer

- Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun
- Direct sunlight – more intense
- Sun sits higher in the sky – longer day
- More intense sunlight and longer days = warmer temperatures

Hemispheres

- Equator divides Earth into two hemispheres – north and south
- Hemispheres experience opposite seasons
- Solstices
 - Longer and shortest days of the year
 - Winter solstice – shortest day – December 21 in northern hemisphere
 - Summer solstice – longest day – June 21 in northern hemisphere

Equinoxes

- Earth is not tilted towards or away from Sun
- Equal hours of daylight and night
- Spring (Vernal) Equinox – March 21 in northern hemisphere
- Autumn Equinox – September 21 in northern hemisphere