Earth in Space Worksheet

Section 2.1

1) The _____and the group of bodies that revolve around it are called the _____ _____.
2) _____ and other planets look like they are perfectly round. However, this is not exactly correct. Earth's polar areas are slightly _____. Around the equator, Earth is slightly _____. This slight variation of a perfect sphere is called an _____spheroid. "Oblate" means flattened.
3) The diameter of Earth is about _____ miles.
4) Earth is the _____ planet from the Sun and the _____-largest of the nine. Earth's orbit around the Sun is not a _____ _____. It is _____, or oval-shaped.
5) The Moon orbits Earth every _____ days, or about once every month.
6) The Sun, Moon, and Earth exert _____ forces on one another that influence _____processes on Earth. The most obvious of these are the _____ and _____ of ocean tides.
7) Most of Earth's energy comes from the _____. This type of energy is called _____ energy and reaches Earth as _____ and _____. All life on Earth depends on _____ energy.
8) Three different relationships between Earth and the Sun control how much solar energy is received at different locations. They are _____, _____ and _____.
9) One complete spin of Earth on its _____ is one _____, which takes _____ hours. Earth rotates in a _____-to-_____ direction.
10) Earth's _____ allows the entire planet's surface to receive the _____effects of _____and the _____ effects of _____.
11) Earth makes one elliptical _____, or _____, every _____ days – one Earth year.
12) Earth's axis is tilted _____ degrees from the perpendicular, or _____degrees, to the plane of its orbit.
13) The _____ of Earth on its axis affects the amount of solar energy that different places receive during the year.

Section 2.2

14) Areas near the _____ receive a lot of solar energy all year. These places are generally warm. We call these warm low-latitude areas near the equator the _____. Other places get very little solar energy. These areas are at high latitudes and are cold most of the time. Because these areas surround the North and South Poles, we call them the _____ _____. The areas between the tropics and the Polar Regions are called the _____ _____.
15) The tilt of the Earth's axis causes the _____ _____ and _____ _____ to have opposite _____ at the same time of the year.
16) We refer to times of greater and lesser heat as the _____. There are four general seasons: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
17) Twice during the year, Earth's poles tilt _____ or _____ from the Sun more than at any other time. The time that Earth's poles point at their greatest angle toward or away from the Sun is called a _____. _____ occur each year about December _____ and June _____.
18) During the December solstice, the Sun's most direct rays strike Earth in the Southern Hemisphere along the ____ degrees south of the equator. This parallel is called the _____. The South Pole is tilted toward the Sun and receives constant sunlight. All areas located south of the Antarctic Circle have 24 hours of daylight. The _____ is the parallel 66.5 degrees south of the equator. The parallel beyond which no sunlight shines on this day is known as the _____. It is located ____ degrees north of the equator.
19) During the_____ solstice, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the greatest number of daylight hours of the year and the first day of summer. The Sun's direct rays area t their most northerly position, striking Earth at a line _____ degrees north of the equator. This line is called the _____.