

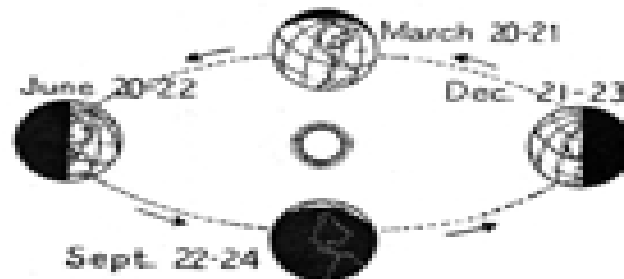
Name _____

Why Do We Have Seasons?

Understand how the tilt of the Earth's axis causes the seasons.

Read the passage and answer the questions below.

The Earth's axis is at a 23.5-degree angle. This means as the Earth orbits the sun, parts of the globe are tilted closer and others are tilted away. This is why we have seasons. The places tilted toward the sun are getting more direct sunlight, which makes it warmer. The places tilted away are getting indirect sunlight, therefore the temperatures are cooler. This is also why when we in the Northern Hemisphere are experiencing summer, it is winter in the Southern Hemisphere. The diagram below shows how different parts of the globe angle toward the sun at different times of the year. For example, in the Northern Hemisphere in December, it is winter because it is tilted away from the sun.



1. What season would it be in the Northern Hemisphere in late June? _____
2. Explain how the tilt of Earth's axis effects the seasons. _____
3. What kind of temperatures would you expect if an area is getting indirect sunlight?

4. When is it winter in the Southern Hemisphere? _____
5. Explain why there are usually mild temperatures during spring and fall.

