

Study Guide: Earth's Cycles/Seasons

- The moon revolves around the Earth, and the Earth revolves around the sun.
- We have day and night because the Earth rotates on its axis.
- It takes the Earth 1 day (24 hours) to rotate 1 time on its axis.
- It takes the Earth 1 year (365 days/12 months) to revolve 1 time around the sun.
- We have seasons because the Earth is tilted on its axis, and the Earth revolves around the sun.
- One complete season takes about 3 months. There are 4 seasons in 1 year.

The Reason for the Seasons:

- The axis of the Earth is **tilted**. This tilting of the Earth is the reason for the seasons. The tilted Earth rotates on its axis as it revolves around the sun. As Earth **revolves** around the sun, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres have different amounts of light at the same time of the year.
- Summer occurs when the most direct rays of sunlight strike the Earth. Winter occurs when less direct rays of sunlight strike the Earth. The Northern and Southern hemispheres of Earth have opposite seasons. When it is summer in the United States, it is winter in Australia.
- Some parts of the Earth have warm weather all year long. Those areas are close to the equator. Understand why the areas close to the Equator stay warm!

Use the diagram in your science notebook to help you draw the Equator, and figure out the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Then, label the season occurring in the Northern Hemisphere at each position during the revolution around the sun.

