

What Causes Earth's Seasons?

Main Idea Earth's rotation and its revolution cause day and night as well as seasons.

Fill in the blanks with words from the box below.

winter solstice
revolution

vernal equinox
axis

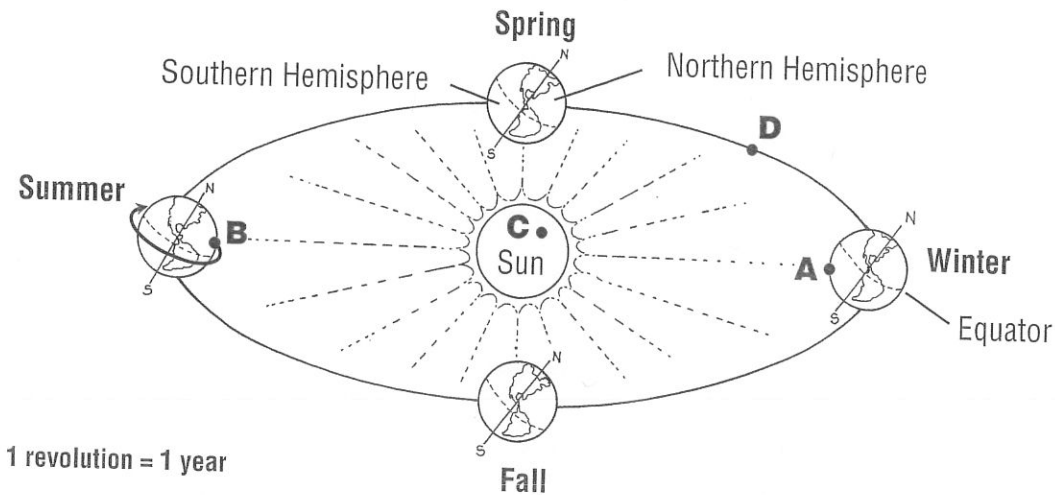
autumnal equinox
summer solstice

1. Earth spins or rotates around an imaginary line called a(n) _____. (page D32)
2. One full trip by Earth around the Sun is called a(n) _____. (page D33)
3. The longest day of the year is called _____. (page D34)
4. The shortest day of the year is called _____. (page D34)
5. The first day of spring, when neither of Earth's poles tilt toward the Sun, is called the _____. (page D34)
6. The first day of fall, when neither of Earth's poles tilt toward the Sun, is called the _____. (page D34)

Circle the letter that best completes the sentence.

7. (page D33) As Earth spins on its axis, it also
- A. changes hemispheres. C. changes the tilt of its axis.
B. moves around the Sun. D. stays in the same place in space.

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8. (page D34) Summer occurs in the Northern Hemisphere when the Sun's rays
 - A. strike only the Southern Hemisphere.
 - B. do not strike the area near the equator.
 - C. are concentrated on the Southern Hemisphere.
 - D. are concentrated on the Northern Hemisphere.
9. (page D32) The rotation of Earth around its axis is shown above as

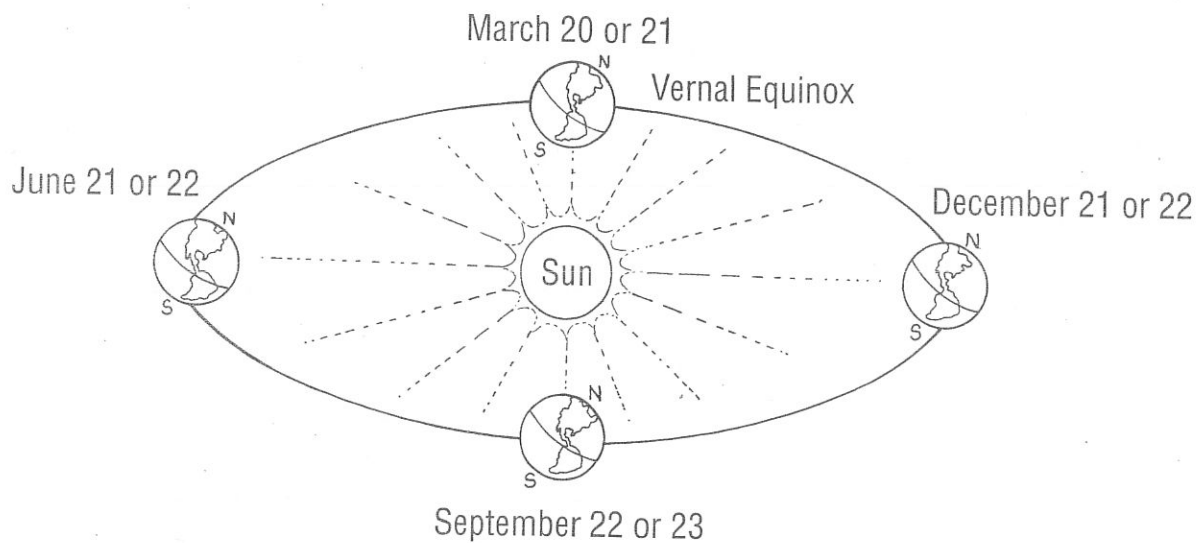
A. Point A.	C. Point C.
B. Point B.	D. Point D.
10. (page D32) It is _____ on the part of Earth labeled Point A.

A. winter	C. summer
B. nighttime	D. daytime
11. (page D34) Fall and spring occur when
 - A. both of Earth's poles tilt toward the Sun.
 - B. neither of Earth's poles tilt toward the Sun.
 - C. the Sun's rays strike only the Southern Hemisphere.
 - D. the Sun's rays strike only the Northern Hemisphere.

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Look at the diagram. Then fill in the blanks using the correct terms.



1. Seasons change as Earth _____ around the Sun on its tilted axis.
2. When it is summer in the Northern Hemisphere, it is _____ in the Southern Hemisphere.
3. Concentrated sunlight and longer days bring warm weather in the _____.
4. The longest day and the most light occur on the _____.
5. On the summer solstice, the North Pole _____ toward the Sun.
6. The shortest day and least light occur on the _____.
7. Days equal in length occur on the Vernal Equinox and the _____.