



A FREE RESOURCE PACK FROM EDMENTUM

Summer Solstice



**Topical Teaching
Resources**



Grade Range

Summer Solstice Topical Teaching Resources

What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teachers, for teachers. In it you'll find high quality teaching resources to help your students understand the background of Summer Solstice and why the days feel longer in the summer.

To go directly to the content, simply click on the title in the index below:

FACT SHEETS:		
Pre-K – Grade 3	Grades 3-6	Grades 3-6
Discover why the Sun rises earlier in the day and sets later every night.	Understand how Earth moves and how it revolves around the Sun.	Discover how other countries celebrate Summer Solstice.
CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS:		
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3-6	
Discuss what shadows are and how you can create them.	Discuss how Earth's tilt cause the seasons to change.	
ACTIVITY SHEETS AND ANSWERS:		
Pre-K – Grade 3	Grades 3-6	
Students are to work in pairs to explain what happens during Summer Solstice.	Follow the directions to create a diagram that describes the Summer Solstice.	
POSTER:		
Pre-K – Grade 6		

Enjoyed these resources?

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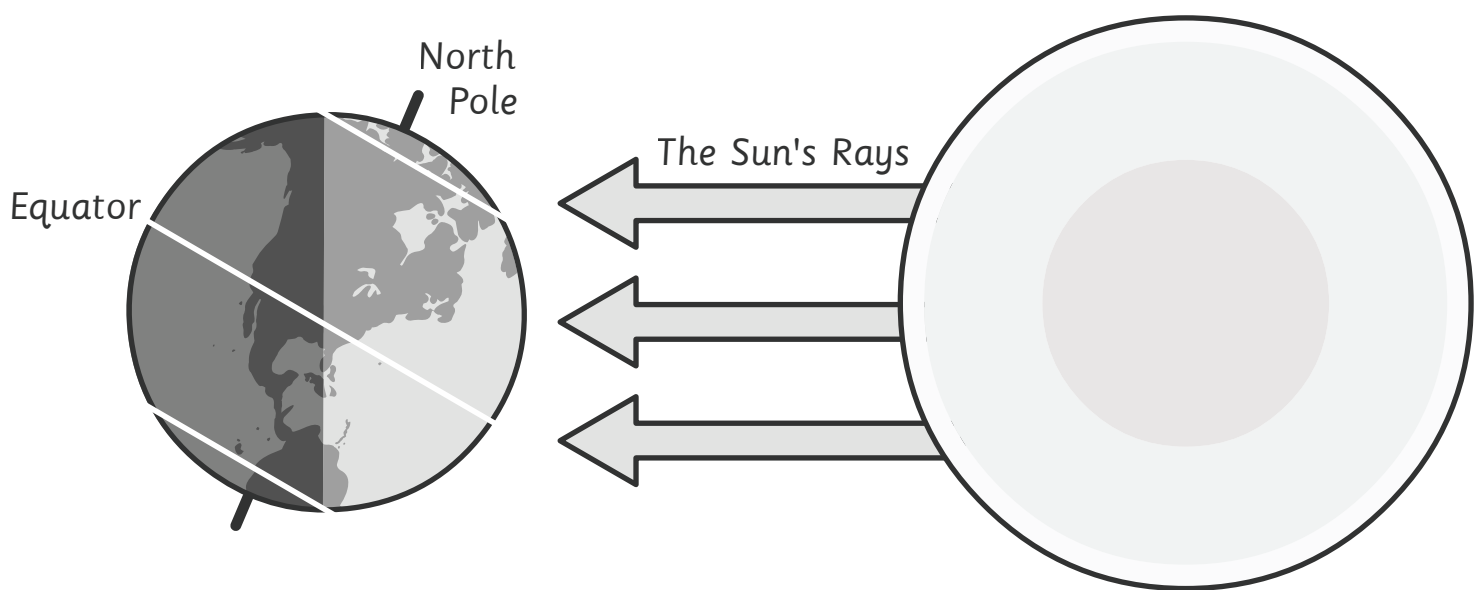
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Name: _____ Class: _____

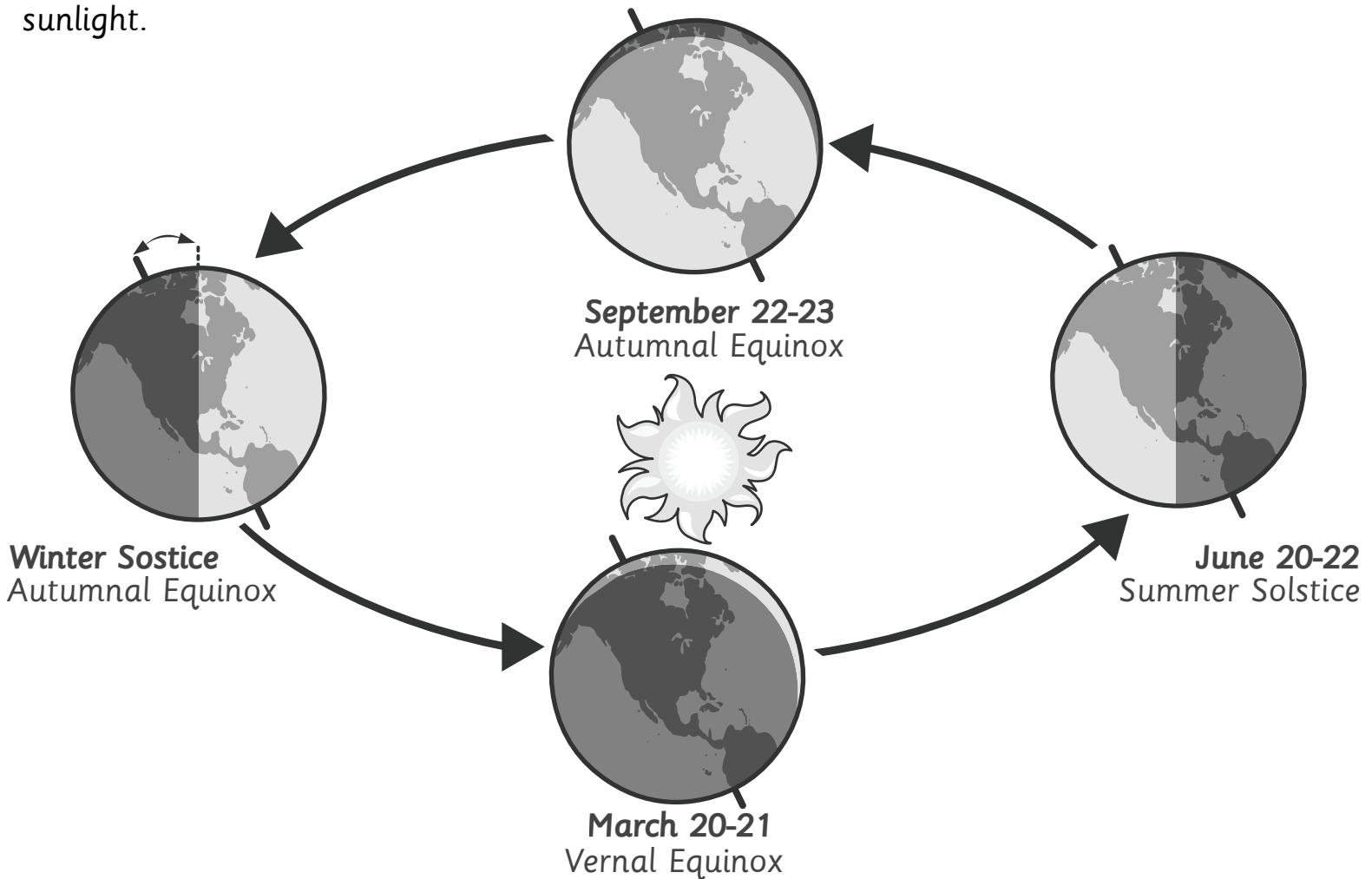
- Have you ever noticed in the summer that the days feel longer? This is because there are more hours of daylight in the summer.
- In the summer, the Sun rises earlier in the day and sets later every night.
- Do you know why this happens? Earth is always moving. It spins on its axis. It also moves around the Sun. During the summer, the North Pole is tilted toward the Sun, so we get more hours of sunlight.



- The summer solstice is the day that the North Pole is closest to the Sun each year.
 - The summer solstice is the day with the most hours of sunshine. It is also the day that the Sun is highest in the sky.
 - For many years, people have celebrated the summer solstice in June.
 - Some Native American tribes had celebrations. The Sioux tribe would put a large tree in the center of the community. They would put tepees in a circle around the tree. This showed their connection to the Sun and the universe.
 - In some northern European countries like Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, midsummer festivals are held. People dance around a flower- and ribbon-covered pole called a maypole.
-

Name: _____ Class: _____

- The summer solstice is the day in June that has the most daylight hours. Have you ever thought about why the days feel longer in the summer? In order to understand why, you need to know a little about how Earth moves.
- Earth is always moving. It rotates on its axis. It also revolves around the Sun.
- During the summer, the North Pole is tilted toward the Sun, so we get more hours of sunlight.



- The summer solstice is the day that the North Pole is closest to the Sun each year. This means that in North America we get more hours of sunlight. The winter solstice is the day that the North Pole is the farthest from the Sun, so we get fewer days of sunlight.
- For many years, people have celebrated the summer solstice in June. **Solstice** comes from the Latin words for **sun** (sol) and **stopped** (stitium). Many ancient cultures studied the Sun. They recognized the summer solstice as the day in the northern hemisphere when the Sun stopped moving northward in the sky and began moving southward.



Name: _____ Class: _____

- Some Native American tribes had celebrations. The Sioux tribe would put a large tree in the center of the community and place tepees in a circle around the tree to show their connection to the Sun and the universe. The tribe members would dance around the tree.
- Ancient Greeks marked the summer solstice as the start of the New Year. They scheduled the Olympic games to coincide with this event.
- In some northern European countries like Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, midsummer festivals are held. People dance around a flower- and ribbon-covered pole called a maypole. These often feature a large bonfire.
- The Chinese people associated the Summer Solstice with “yin” which was the more feminine force, and Winter Solstice with “yang” a more masculine force. Festivals are held to celebrate both.



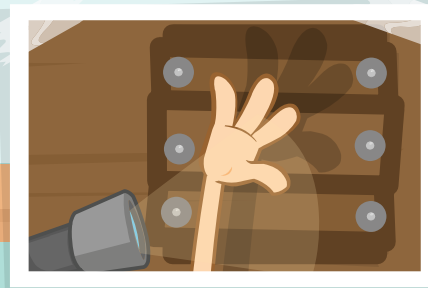
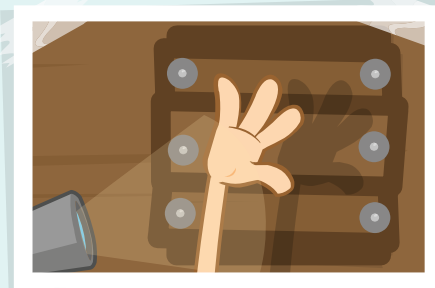
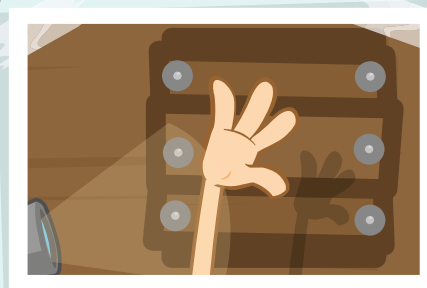
Critical Thinking Question

What are shadows?



Critical Thinking Answer

A shadow is made when light is blocked.



What happens to the shadow when the flashlight moves **closer** to the hand? What happens to the shadow when the flashlight moves **farther away** from the hand

why?

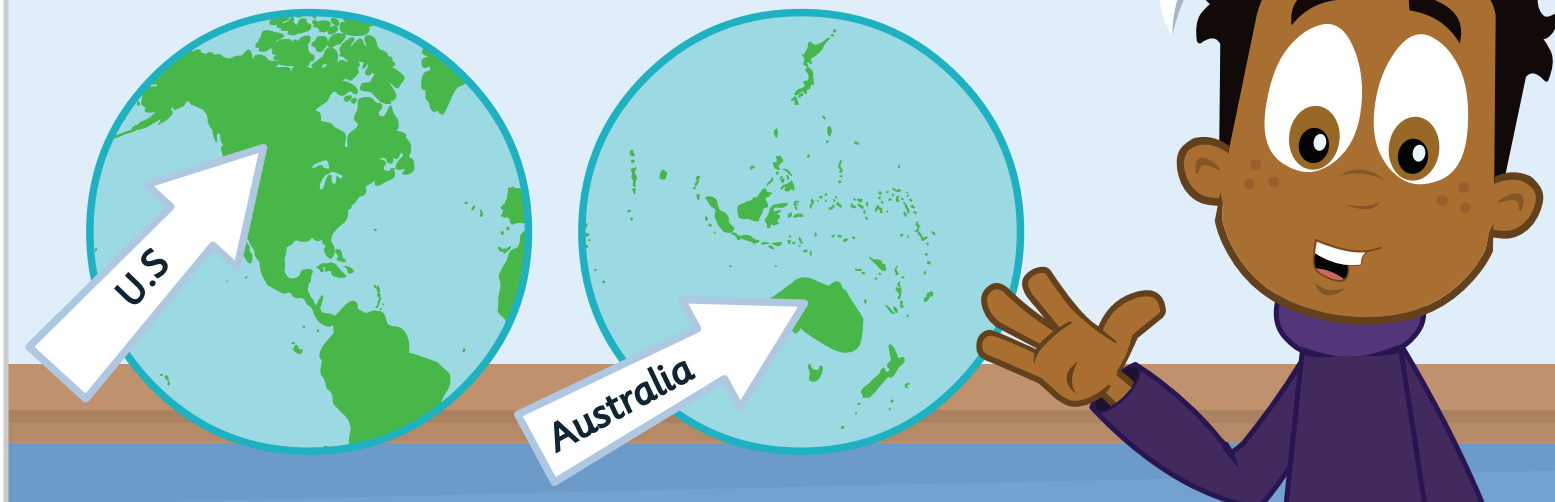
Critical Thinking Question

Why is the Summer Solstice in Australia on December 21st?

Isn't that winter?



Seasons are caused because Earth moves around the sun on axis.
The United States and Australia are on opposite sides
of Earth so their seasons are opposite



How does Earth's tilt cause the seasons?

When it is Summer in the U.S., the tilt of Earth means that the Sun shines on it for longer.
The longer the sun shines, the hotter it becomes.



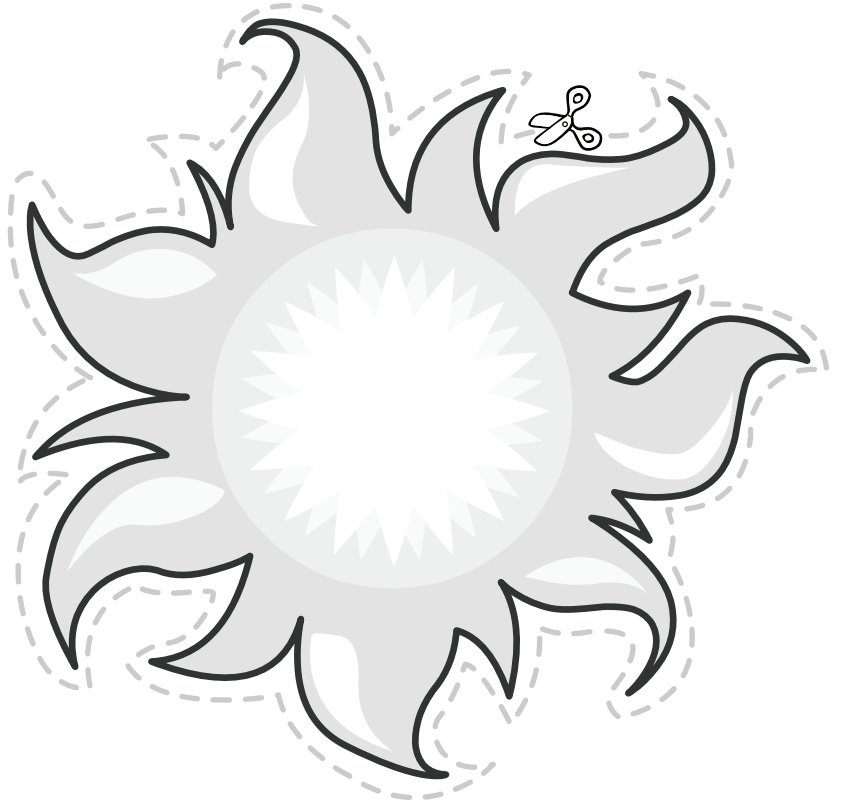
Name: _____ Class: _____

Work with a partner.

Cut out the drawings of Earth and the Sun.

Glue them to a craft stick.

Use them to show the movement of Earth and the Sun during the summer solstice.



Write a sentence to explain what happens during summer solstice.





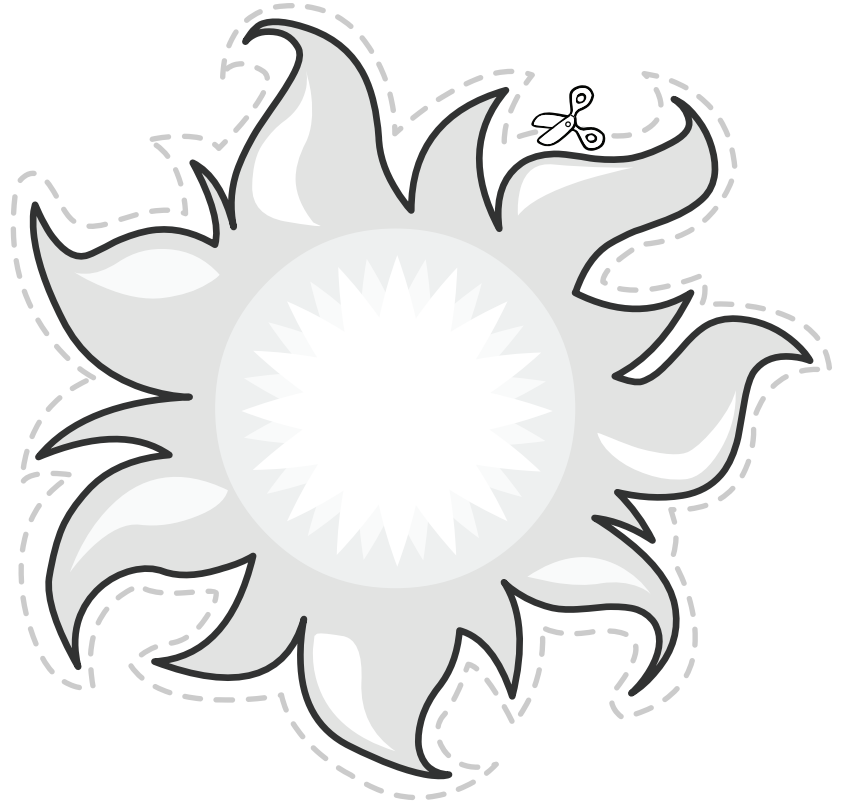
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Write a sentence to explain what happens during summer solstice.

During the summer solstice, the North

Pole tilts closest to the Sun.





Name: _____ Class: _____

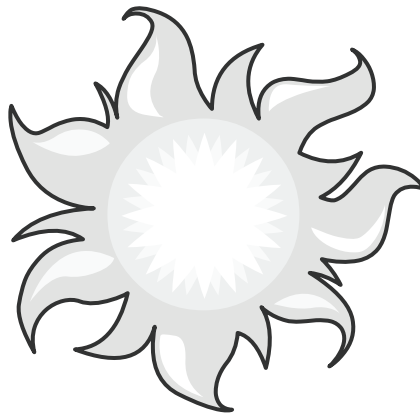
Follow the directions to create a diagram that describes the summer solstice.

Draw a line through the center of Earth to show its axis.
Remember that Earth is tilted toward the Sun.

Draw a red line around Earth to show the equator.

Draw an oval around the Sun to show Earth's path.

Draw an arrow to show the Sun shining on Earth.



Explain the summer solstice.





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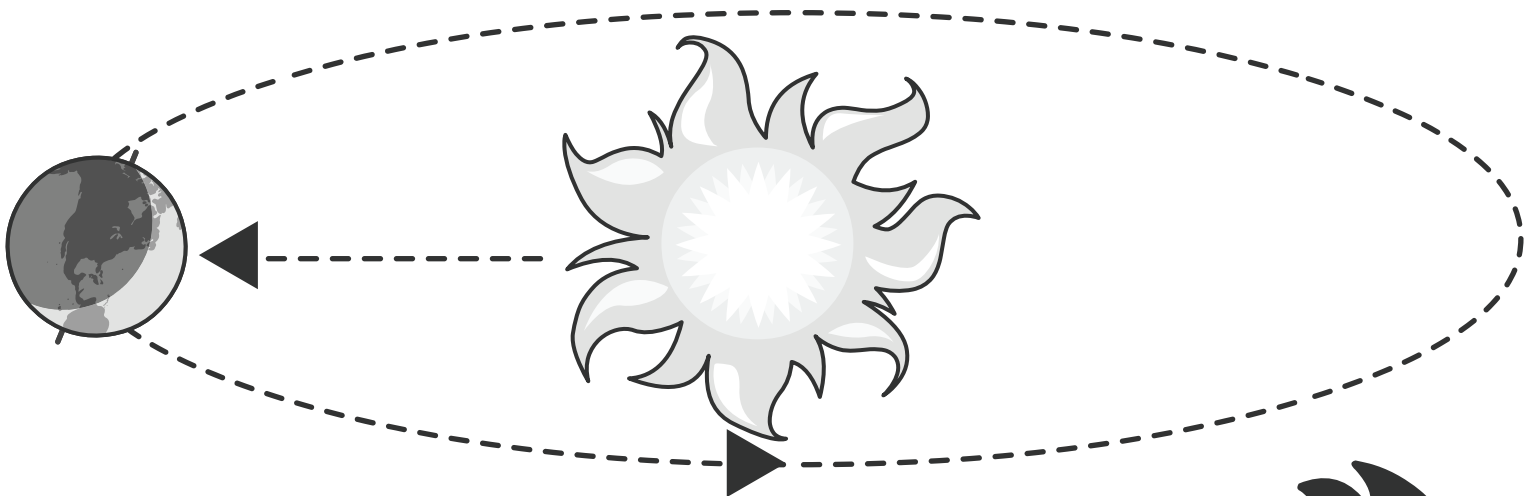
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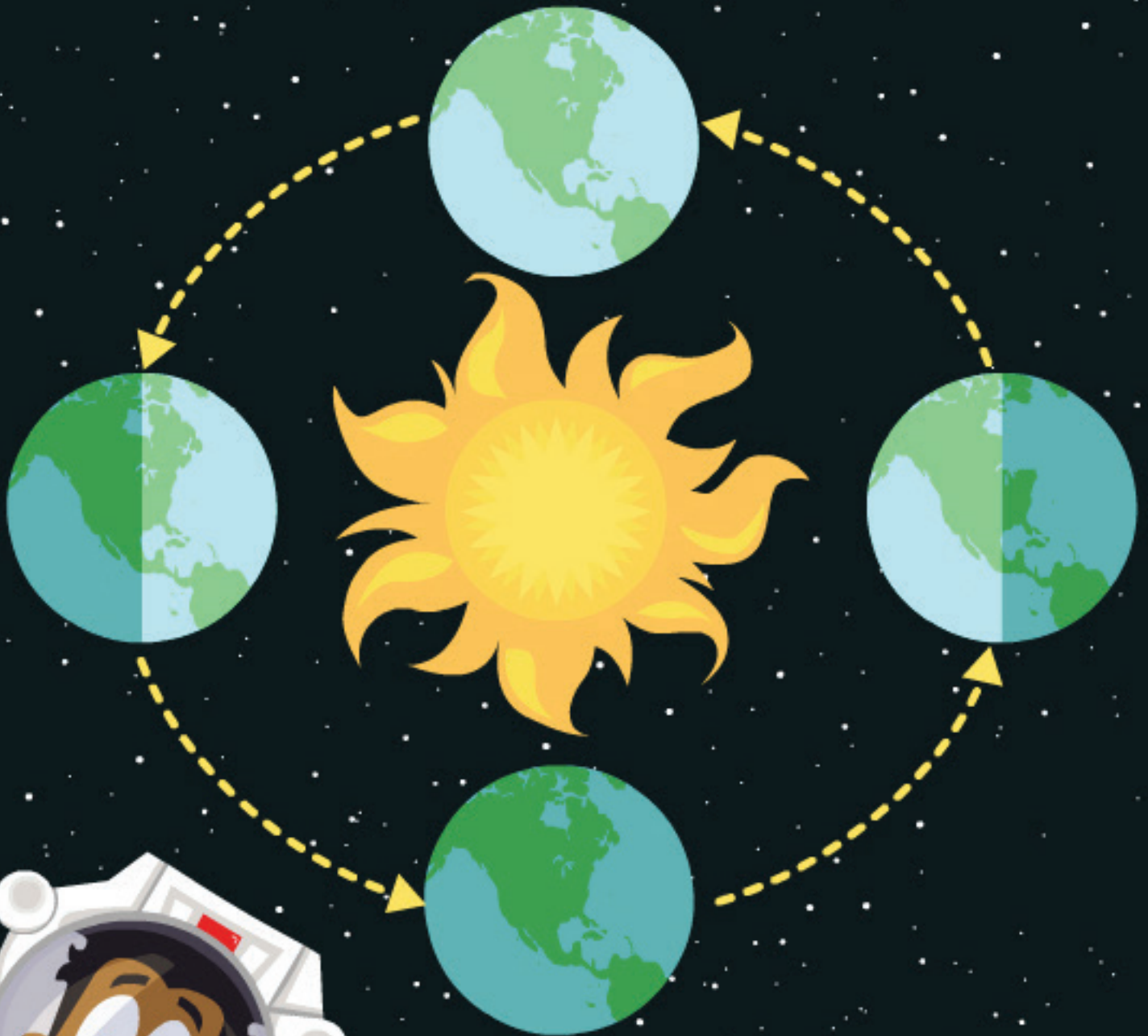


Explain the summer solstice.

Summer solstice is the day when the North Pole
is tilted closest to the Sun. It is the day that has
the most hours of sunlight.



Summer Solstice





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