

The Longest and Shortest Days



When is the longest day of the year in the United States? It is around June 21. That is the first day of summer. It is called the summer solstice. Summer days are long. We have many hours of sunlight.

Why? Earth tilts as it travels around the sun. In the summer, the north half of Earth tilts toward the sun. The United States is in Earth's north half.

What is the shortest day of the year? It is around December 21. That is the winter solstice. It is the first day of winter. In the winter, Earth's north half tilts away from the sun.

Name: _____

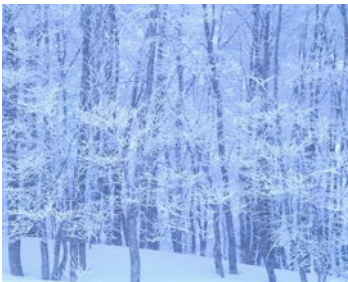
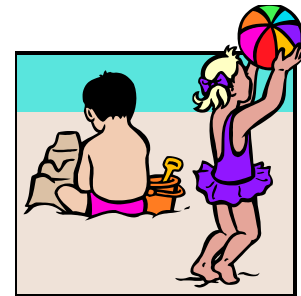
Date: _____

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What do we call the first day of summer?

**the summer solstice****the winter solstice**

2. During which season are the days long?

**winter****summer**

3. What do we call the first day of winter?

**the summer solstice****the winter solstice**

4. Are winter days long or short?



short

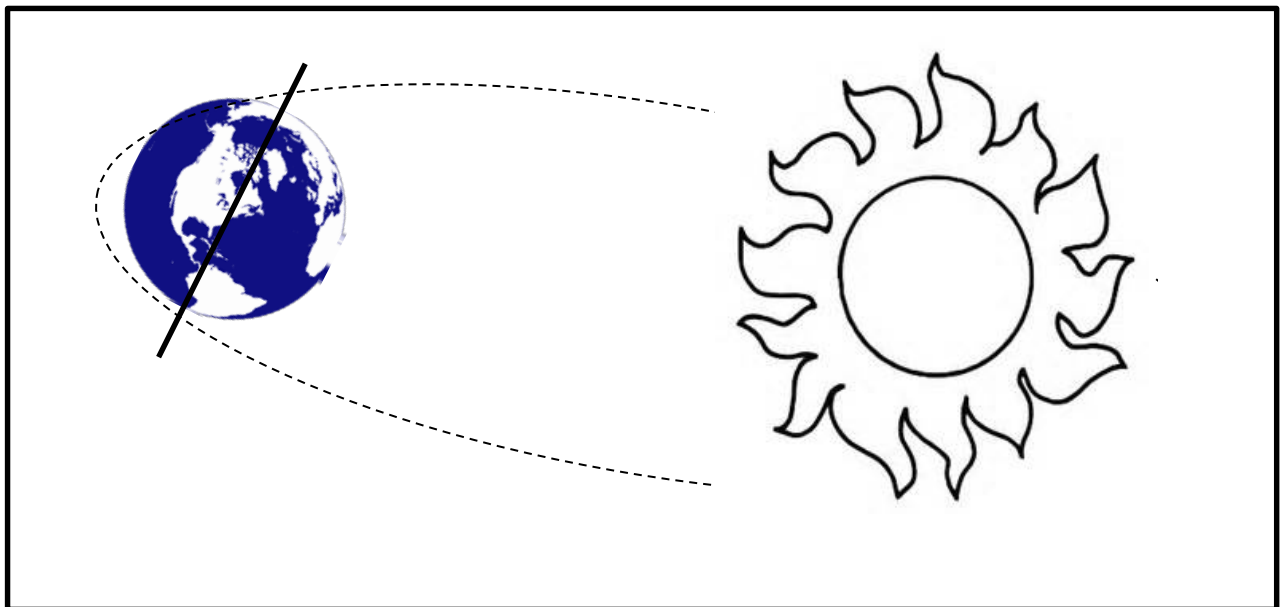


long

5. A) What does the Earth do as it travels around the sun that makes the length of the days change?

As it travels around the sun the Earth

B) Color in the picture of Earth traveling around the sun.



6. What did you learn from "The Longest and Shortest Days"?



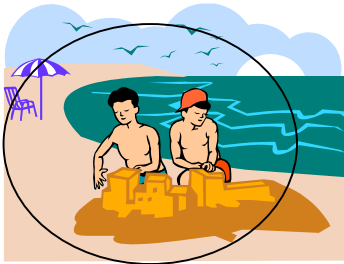
Teacher Guide & Answers

Note to Teacher: Read each question out loud to your students and have each student complete the worksheet independently. For questions 5 A) and 6, you can have students draw their answers, answer orally, or write their answers depending on your students' progress. If you have them write their answers, you may want to write the word(s) on the board for them to copy.

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 350

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What do we call the first day of summer?

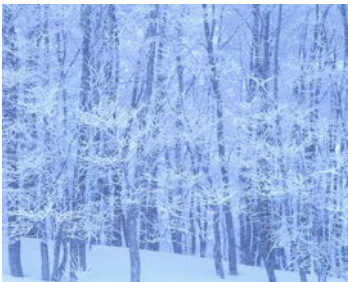


the summer solstice

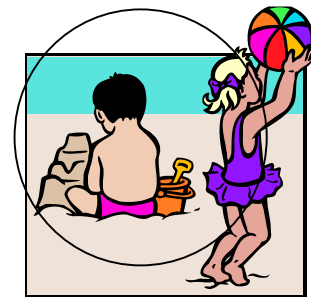


the winter solstice

2. During which season are the days long?



winter



summer

3. What do we call the first day of winter?



the summer solstice



the winter solstice

4. Are winter days long or short?



short



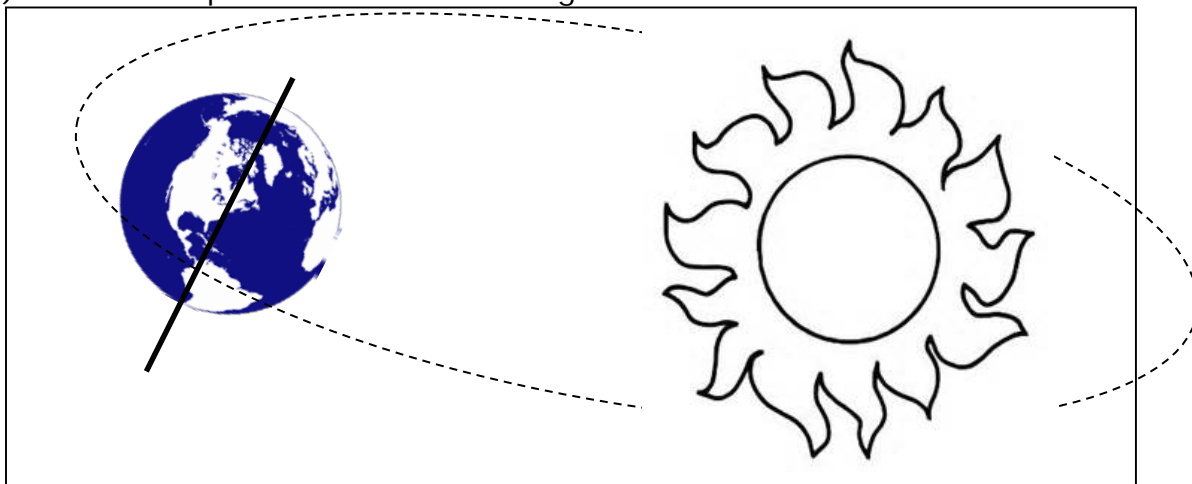
long

5. A) *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What does the Earth do as it travels around the sun that makes the length of the days change?

Suggested answer: As it travels around the sun the Earth *tilts*.

B) Color in the picture of Earth traveling around the sun.



Suggested answer: Drawings may vary but students can at least color in the land on the Earth and the sun. Advanced students may want to show that the sun is shining on the north half of Earth in this picture. See if they can articulate that this picture shows what the Earth looks like when it is summer in the United States.

6. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What did you learn from "The Longest and Shortest Days"?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.