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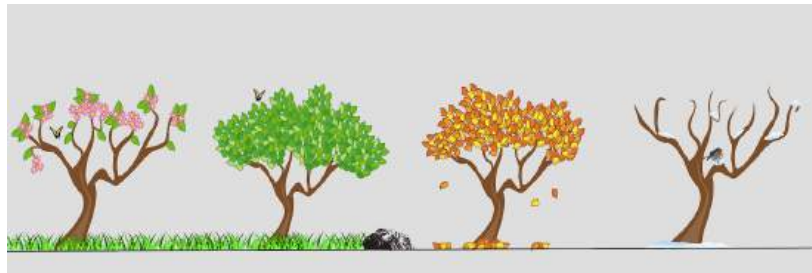
6th, 7th, 8th Grade Reading Mega Bundle

Reading Comprehension Passage & Questions

- ✓ Over 115 Readings! Covers all Science Topics
- ✓ No Prep, Ready-to-Use Resource in Google and Office Format
- ✓ Includes Comprehension and Extension Questions



The Seasons



What is a season?

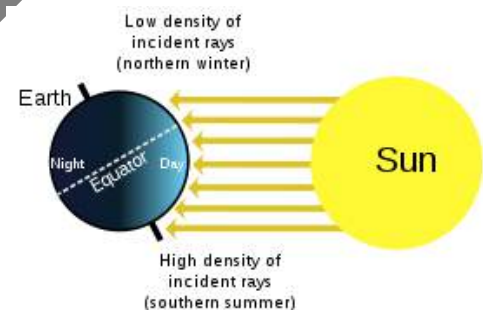
A **season** is a period of time that is defined by certain weather patterns and the number of daylight hours. The changing of seasons is often marked by a change in weather and environmental conditions (leaves change color, etc.). On Earth, there are four seasons – spring, summer, autumn (fall), and winter.

Interesting Fact!

Every planet in our Solar System has seasons but they are extremely different from the seasons on Earth.

Why do seasons occur?

There are two main things that cause the seasons. 1) The Earth is tilted on an **axis** and 2) the Earth orbits around the Sun. The season depends on how much direct sunlight a particular location on Earth is receiving as determined by number 1 and 2 above. If the Southern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun (see picture to the right), it is experiencing summer. Since the Southern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun, the Northern Hemisphere must be tilted away from the Sun and it will experience winter. Spring and fall are experienced when the hemisphere is not tilted towards or away from the Sun but is somewhere in the middle.



Summer in the Southern Hemisphere

What DOES NOT create the seasons?

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TWF

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Seasons: A period of time in the year that is distinct due to weather and environmental conditions

Axis: An imaginary line that an object rotates around

Northern and Southern Hemisphere: Part of the Earth north and south of the equator

Spring

Spring is the season of growth. Many plants and flowers bloom in the spring. The days are longer and warmer compared to the winter. In the Northern Hemisphere, spring is from the **spring equinox**, which is on March 20th, until the **summer solstice**, which is on June 21st. In the Southern Hemisphere, spring is from September 22nd until December 21st.



Summer

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Autumn

Autumn is the season of harvest. The leaves of **deciduous trees** begin to change color and drop as they prepare for winter. The temperature and the length of days decrease as they approach winter. Autumn begins at the autumnal equinox and lasts until the **winter solstice**. In the Northern Hemisphere, that is from September 22nd until December 21st. In the Southern Hemisphere, that is from March 20th until June 21st.

Winter



Winter is the season of **hibernation or torpor**. Many animals slow down and sleep throughout the winter. The temperature and the length of days are the lowest during this season. They begin to gradually increase as they approach spring. Winter runs from the winter solstice until the spring equinox. In the Northern Hemisphere, that is from December 21st until March 20th.

Deciduous trees: Trees that lose their leaves in the autumn

Spring and winter equinox: The start of spring and winter when the Sun shines directly on the equator and day and night are equal length

Summer solstice: The beginning of summer and the longest day of the year

Winter solstice: The beginning of winter and the shortest day of the year

Hibernation: A period of time, often in the winter, when certain animals enter a state of inactivity

Torpor: Similar to hibernation but usually shorter in length

Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What is a season?
2. What
3. What are the four seasons?
4. When
5. What
6. During which season would you expect an animal to hibernate and why?

Extension Questions:

7. Using your device or resources available to you, create two graphs. The first graph should show the relationship between time of year (month) and temperature. The second should show the relationship between time of year and the average length of day. You can find all this information on your location weather website or your cities homepage.

For the next three questions, please refer to the following link using the QR code or URL below.

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8. What angle is the Earth tilted at? **23.5 degrees**
9. How much
10. Why does a spread out beam of sunlight, affect temperature and in which season would the Sun's light be more spread out?

Ecobottle Sample



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TWF SAMPLE

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