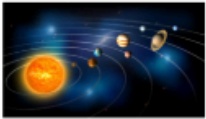


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Crash Course Astronomy #3: Cycles in the Sky

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. As the Earth _____ once per day, stars appear to rise and set.
2. Over time, stars rise about _____ minutes earlier each night in the east.
3. The line in the sky that reflects the Earth's path around the Sun is called the _____.
4. The Sun appears to move through a set of constellations called the _____ over the course of a year.
5. The _____ takes one year to orbit the Sun once.
6. The Earth's axis is tilted with respect to its orbital plane by _____ degrees.
7. The tilt of the Earth's axis causes the changing _____ throughout the year.
8. In the northern hemisphere, when the north pole is tipped toward the Sun, it is _____.
9. Earth is actually _____ to the Sun in January than in July, despite it being winter in the northern hemisphere.
10. When it's summer in one hemisphere, it's _____ in the other.
11. The Earth's axis slowly traces a circle in the sky in a process called _____.
12. Precession takes approximately _____ years to complete one full cycle.
13. The ancient Egyptians saw _____ as their pole star.
14. The shift of zodiac signs over time is due to the _____ of the Earth's axis.
15. Ancient people used the stars as a natural _____ and calendar.

Crash Course Astronomy #3: Cycles in the Sky KEY

1. As the Earth **rotates** once per day, stars appear to rise and set.
2. Over time, stars rise about **four** minutes earlier each night in the east.
3. The line in the sky that reflects the Earth's path around the Sun is called the **ecliptic**.
4. The Sun appears to move through a set of constellations called the **zodiac** over the course of a year.
5. The **Earth** takes one year to orbit the Sun once.
6. The Earth's axis is tilted with respect to its orbital plane by **23.5** degrees.
7. The tilt of the Earth's axis causes the changing **seasons** throughout the year.
8. In the northern hemisphere, when the north pole is tipped toward the Sun, it is **summer**.
9. Earth is actually **closer** to the Sun in January than in July, despite it being winter in the northern hemisphere.
10. When it's summer in one hemisphere, it's **winter** in the other.
11. The Earth's axis slowly traces a circle in the sky in a process called **precession**.
12. Precession takes approximately **26,000** years to complete one full cycle.
13. The ancient Egyptians saw **Thuban** as their pole star.
14. The shift of zodiac signs over time is due to the **precession** of the Earth's axis.
15. Ancient people used the stars as a natural **clock** and calendar.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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