

## Season

A season is a period of weather or other activity that repeats each year. In much of the world, there are four major seasons of weather. They are winter, spring, summer, and autumn. Another name for autumn is fall. Each season lasts about three months. Each season brings changes in temperature, weather, and the length of daylight.

The weather becomes warmer in spring. The hottest weather of all happens in summer. In autumn, the weather grows cooler. This leads to winter, when the weather is coldest.

The four seasons are opposite in Earth's northern and southern halves, called the Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere. When it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere, it is summer in the Southern Hemisphere. When it is autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, it is spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and so on.

The changing seasons are caused by Earth's movement around the sun. Earth is tilted on its *axis*. The axis is an imaginary line through the North and South poles. As Earth travels around the sun, the tilt causes the sun's rays to strike each place on Earth at ever-changing angles.

When the North Pole is slanted toward the sun, it is summer in the Northern Hemisphere. During this time, the sun's rays shine on the Northern Hemisphere from a high angle, so northern areas get plenty of sunlight. At the same time, the South Pole is slanted away from the sun, causing it to be winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

Tropical areas often do not have the same four seasons. These areas are near the equator and get plentiful sunlight the year around. Instead, they may have one or two rainy seasons separated by one or two dry seasons.

Calendar Equinox Hemisphere North Pole Solstice South Pole Seasonal Activities Temp Time:  
Charting data and drawing conclusions Critter Match-Up

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