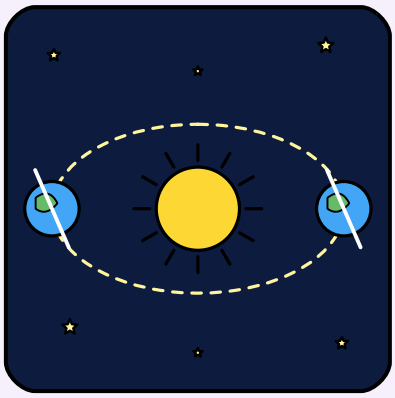
Why Do We Have Seasons?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Every year, the weather changes from summer to fall to winter to spring. Many people think this happens because Earth moves closer to the sun in summer and farther away in winter. That is not true! Earth's distance from the sun changes only a little.



The real reason is tilt. Earth's axis is an imaginary line through the North and South Poles, and it is tilted to one side. As Earth travels around the sun once a year, the tilt stays pointed the same way in space.

When your half of Earth tilts toward the sun, sunlight hits it more directly. Days are long and warm. It is summer. When your half tilts away, sunlight arrives at a low slant and spreads out. Days are short and cold. It is winter.

That is why the seasons are opposite in the two halves of Earth. When it is summer in the United States, it is winter in Australia!

1 WHAT? **What causes the seasons?**

Earth's tilt | Earth's distance from the sun | the moon

2 MAIN IDEA **What is the main idea of this passage?**

Earth's tilt gives us seasons. | Australia is very hot. | Winter days are short.

3 **Read each sentence. Circle True or False.**

Earth is much closer to the sun in summer. **True** **False**

When it is summer in the United States, it is winter in Australia. **True** **False**

4 HOW? **How is sunlight different in summer and in winter?**

_____

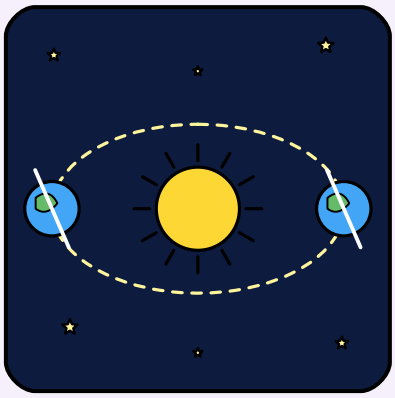
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Answer Key

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1 WHAT? **What causes the seasons?**

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2 MAIN IDEA **What is the main idea of this passage?**

(Earth's tilt gives us seasons.) Australia is very hot. Winter days are short.

3 **Read each sentence. Circle True or False.**

Earth is much closer to the sun in summer. True (False)

When it is summer in the United States, it is winter in Australia. (True) False

4 HOW? **How is sunlight different in summer and in winter?**

In summer it hits more directly. In winter it comes at a low slant.