

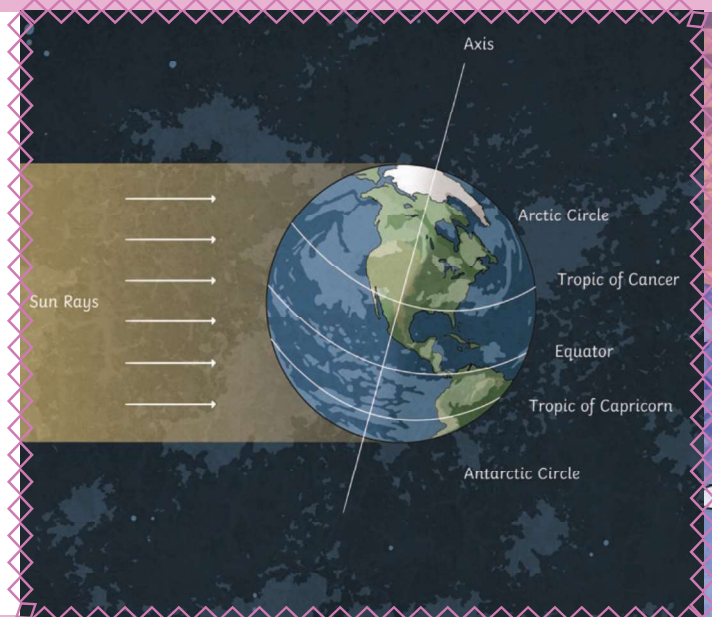
Winter Solstice

The winter solstice happens around the 21st of December every year in the top half of the Earth which is called the northern hemisphere. Hemisphere means half a sphere. The winter solstice is the day when there is the shortest amount of daylight and the longest amount of night.

What Is a Solstice?

A solstice only happens because the Earth is tilted over. This means that as the Earth travels around the Sun, sometimes the northern hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun and gets more light and heat, making it summertime. When the northern hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun, it is darker and colder, making it wintertime.

The summer solstice is the point when there is the most sunlight and the winter solstice is the point of least sunlight.



Solstice Facts:

- At the North Pole, there is no daytime at all during midwinter.
- If the Earth didn't tilt, we wouldn't have seasons.
- Australia is in the bottom half of the world so their winter is in June.

How Do People Celebrate?

This section is awkward and the second paragraph is vague and inaccurate. Please change this section to:

Humans have celebrated the winter solstice for most of history. Since the winter solstice marks the longest night before days begin to get longer again, it was an event worth celebrating.

The winter solstice is also known as 'Midwinter' or 'Yule'. As part of many historic celebrations, a huge log was burned in a fire that lasted the twelve days of Christmas. This log was called a Yule log which inspired the chocolate cake dessert eaten today.

Many of the foods we eat today at Christmastime were also eaten long ago, such as meats, dried fruits, cheeses and pickles.

Questions

1. What 3D shape is the Earth?

2. Draw **three** lines to complete each sentence.

Solstices happen
because ...

is also called 'Midwinter'.

The winter solstice ...

the Earth is tilted.

Humans have celebrated
the winter solstice ...

for most of history.

3. Tick 'true' or 'false' for each statement.

True **False**

☐
☐

The northern hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun in summer making it warmer.

☐
☐

The northern hemisphere is colder and tilted away from the Sun during winter.

☐
☐

Winter is at the same time in Britain and Australia.

4. How much sunlight is there at the North Pole during the winter solstice?

5. What season is it in Australia when it is summer in the UK? Can you explain why?

6. Explain the **two** different types of 'Yule logs'.

7. Name **two** foods that have been eaten at Christmas or midwinter for a long time.
