

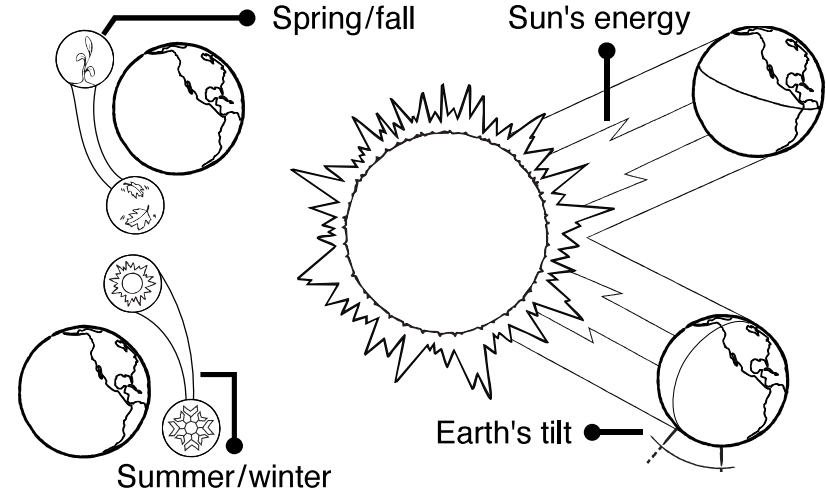
Seasons

The **Earth's tilt** affects how much of the **Sun's energy** different parts of the planet receive throughout the year. This difference leads to the changing seasons we experience.

Earth is tilted on its axis, so as it orbits the Sun, one hemisphere (either the northern or southern) leans toward the Sun while the other leans away. When your hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun, you get more sunlight and warmer temperatures. That's **summer**. When it's tilted away, the Sun's energy is weaker, and you experience **winter**.

Spring and **fall** happen in between, when both hemispheres get about the same amount of sunlight. So the seasons are all about sunlight and tilt — not how close Earth is to the Sun. In fact, for people in the northern hemisphere, summer actually happens when Earth is farthest away from the Sun in its orbit, and winter happens when Earth is closest to the Sun.

Earth's tilt also causes places farther away from the equator to get more or less sunlight as the seasons change. In winter in Northern Alaska, the Sun hardly rises at all. In summer, it almost never sets. This is due to these regions being tilted toward or away from the Sun.



Speaking of the Heliosphere...

A year on Earth encompasses all four seasons. Each season has distinctive weather patterns. Depending upon where you are located on the Earth, seasonal weather patterns differ, and some seasons may last longer than others. Which is your favorite season of the year? What kind of weather do you experience during that season?



Lower Tanana Athabascans inhabit a region of Alaska that enjoys heat from the summer sun, allowing many natural foods to be harvested. In their language, Ten Kenaga', the word **khwnadhel** means, "it is hot." Scan the QR code to hear its pronunciation.

