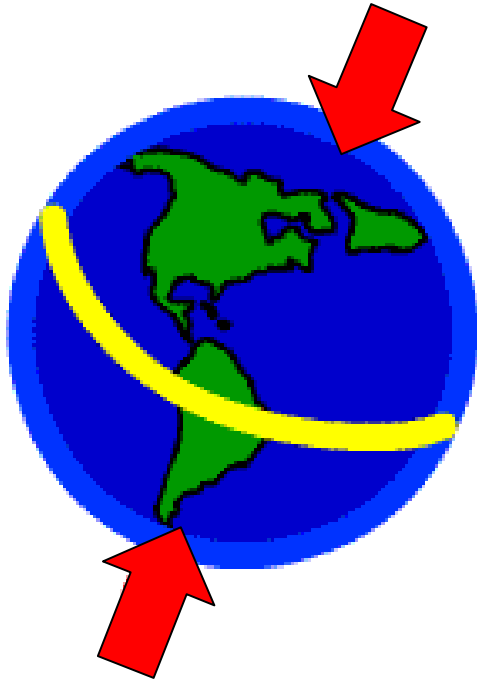


Why do we have Seasons?



The Hemispheres

Northern Hemisphere



The
Equator

Southern Hemisphere

Planet Earth can be divided in two halves. The top half is called the **Northern Hemisphere**. The bottom half is called the **Southern Hemisphere**.

The two hemispheres are separated by the **equator**. This is a line that goes around the centre of Earth.

The Earth's Tilt

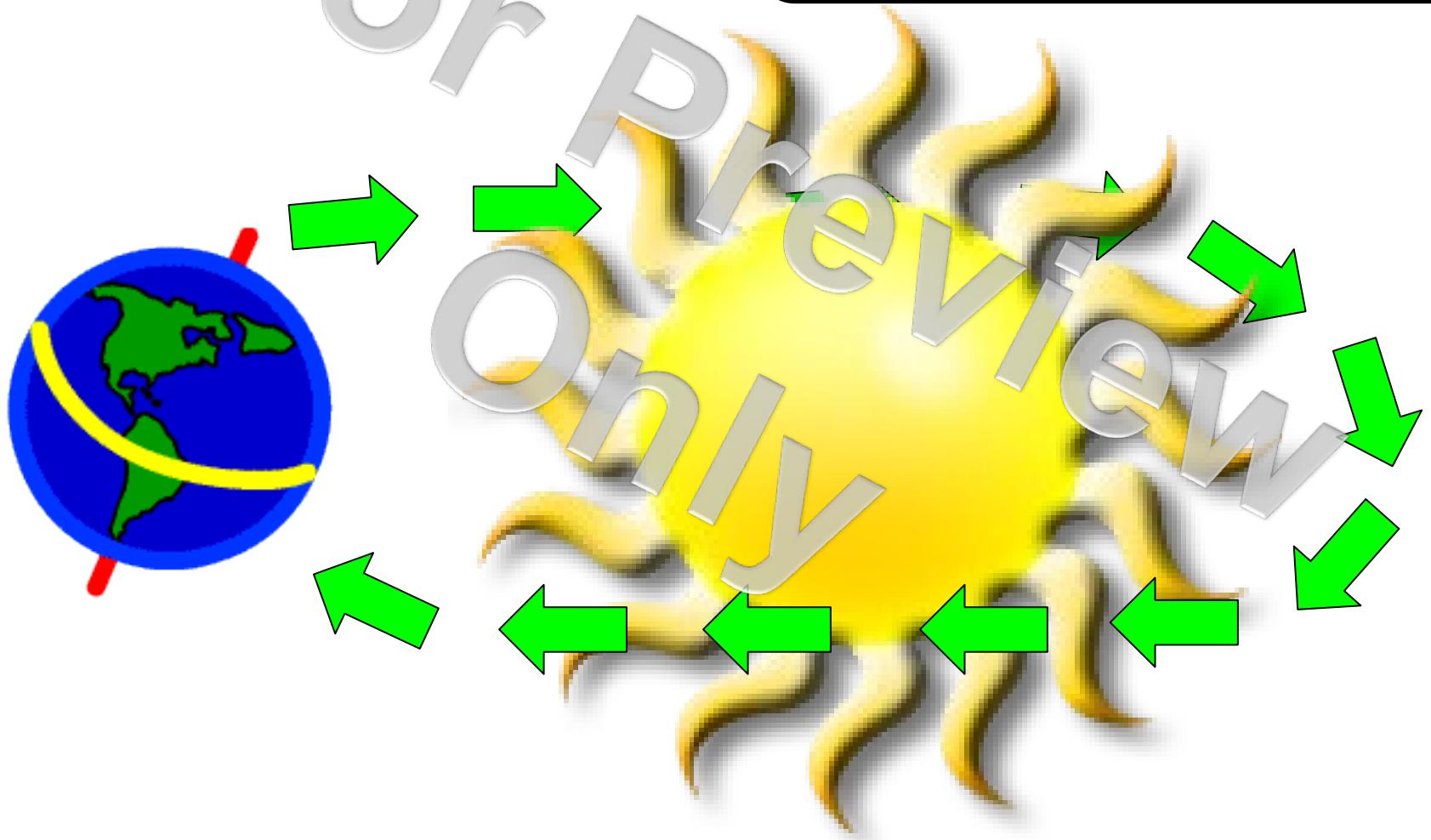
The Earth is not level. It is tilted. One of the hemispheres is 'pointing' towards the sun.



The axis

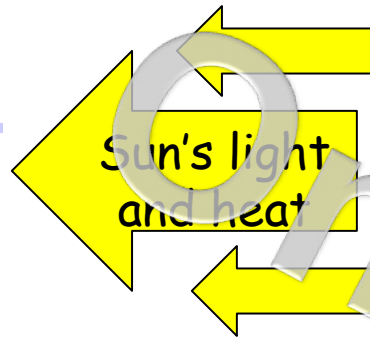
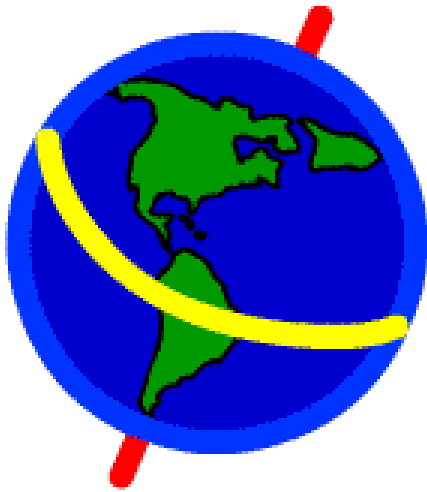
The Earth's Orbit

The Earth orbits the sun.
This takes one year, or
 $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days.

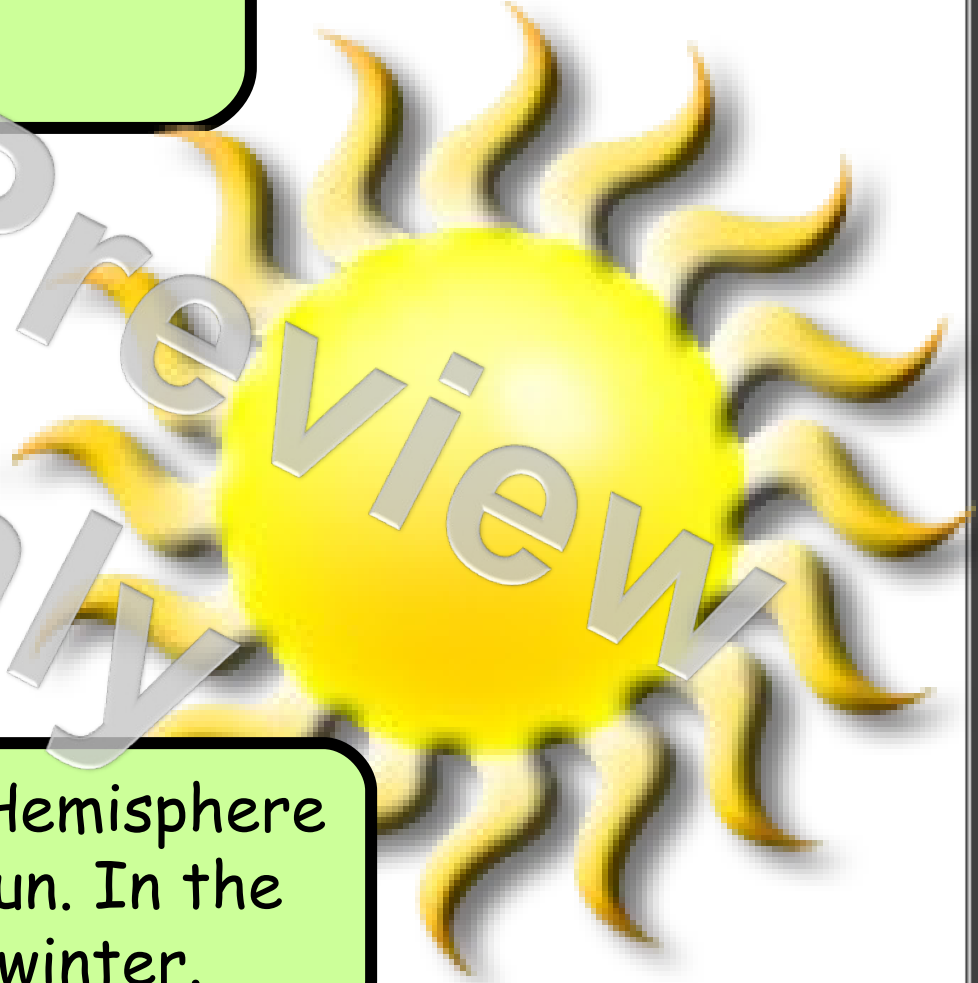


In June, the Northern Hemisphere is pointing towards the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere it is summer.

June



In January, the Southern Hemisphere is pointing away from the sun. In the Southern Hemisphere it is winter.



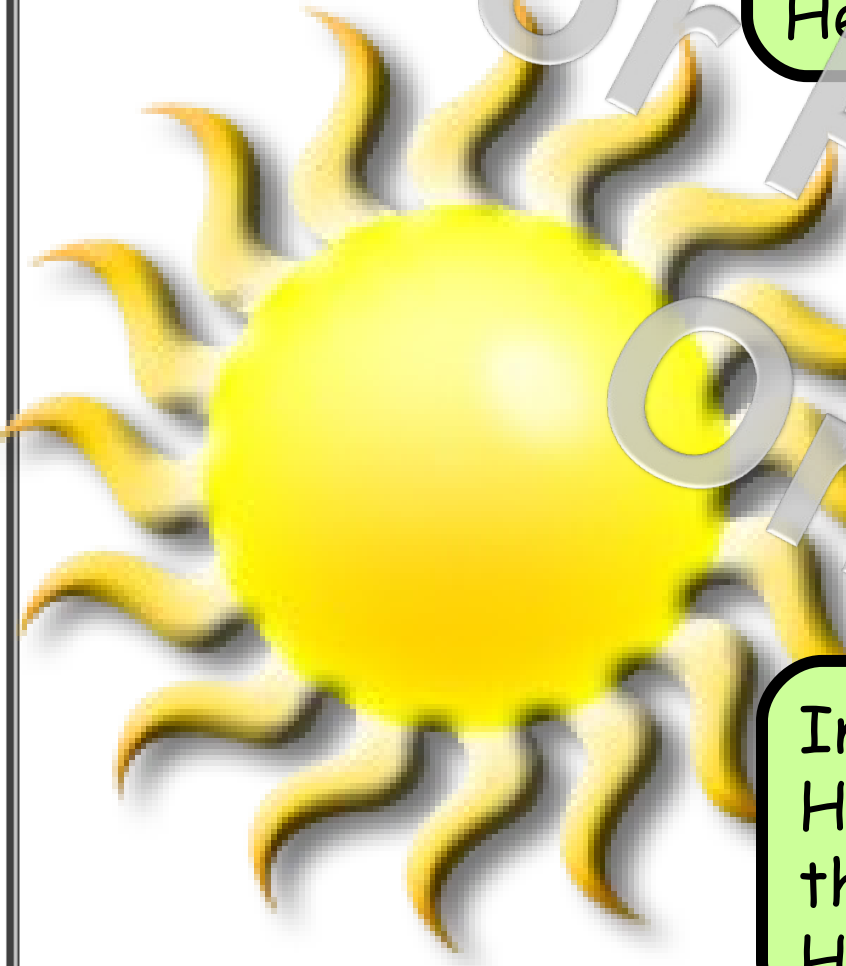
In Summer it is warm.
We get lots of the
sun's light and heat.



We have long days and
short nights.

December

In January, the Northern Hemisphere is pointing away from the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere it is winter.



Sun's light
and heat



In January, the Southern Hemisphere is pointing towards the sun. In the Southern Hemisphere it is winter.

In winter it is cold. We don't get much of the sun's light and heat.



We have short days and long nights.

Autumn and Spring

In the middle of Autumn and Spring, the sun's light and heat is shared equally between the two hemispheres.

