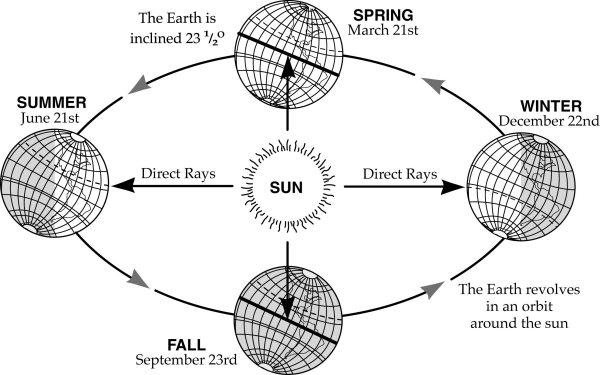
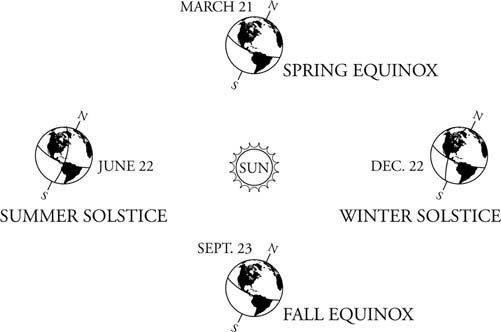
Seasons of the Year



Sunlight heats the earth’s surface, which warms the air above it. But the sun does not heat the earth evenly. The poles are frigid, and the tropics (the bands surrounding the equator) are usually hot. That’s because the tropics face the sun more directly than the poles.

In the temperate zones (the areas between the tropics and the poles), the amount of heat received from the sun varies greatly during the year because the earth tilts on its axis as it orbits the sun. The variation causes the seasons: summer, fall, winter, and spring. The seasons north of the equator are the opposite of the seasons south of the equator. When it’s summer in the United States, it is winter in Brazil.

Seasons of the Year



Direct Sunlight

