

Vocabulary: Seasons: Earth, Moon, and Sun



Vocabulary

- Altitude – in astronomy, the angle between an object in the sky and the horizon.
 - If the Sun is directly overhead, it has an altitude of 90° . If the Sun is on the horizon, it has an altitude of 0° .
- Axis – an imaginary line around which an object rotates.
 - Earth's axis runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
- Azimuth – the compass direction of a celestial object.
 - You can think of azimuth as compass bearings. Azimuth tells you the direction of an object in the sky.
- Equinox – one of the two days of the year in which the length of the day is equal to the length of the night.
 - On the equinoxes, neither the Northern Hemisphere nor the Southern Hemisphere is tilted toward or away from the Sun.
 - The spring equinox occurs around March 21, and the fall equinox occurs around September 22.
- Horizon – the line along which the sky and the Earth appear to meet.
- Latitude – a location's angular distance north or south of the equator.
 - Latitude is measured in degrees north or south.
 - The latitude of the equator is 0° , the latitude of the North Pole is 90° N, and the latitude of Washington, D.C., is 39° N.
- Revolution – the movement of an object around another object.
 - The path most celestial bodies follow as they revolve around another celestial body is called an *orbit*. Most orbits are elliptical in shape.
- Rotation – the spinning of an object around an axis.
- Solstice – one of the two days of the year on which the sun reaches its greatest apparent distance north or south.
 - The longest day of the year is the summer solstice. The shortest day of the year is the winter solstice.
 - In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice occurs around June 21, and the winter solstice occurs around December 21.