Long Summer Days

Seasons

In June, it is winter south of the equator and summer north of the equator. This is when the Sun shines directly on the Northern Hemisphere and indirectly on the Southern Hemisphere.

Credit: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Earth's orbit and tilted angle as it moves around the Sun make summer days long and warm/hot. In June, July, and August the Northern Hemisphere receives more direct sunlight and for a longer duration due to the tilt of the Earth, which causes summer. In these same months, the Southern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun and experiences the colder and shorter days of winter. Did you know that Christmas picnics on the beach are popular in Australia and New Zealand?

CONNECT

CONNECT to the sensory experiences provided by long summer days. Describe how the warm sun feels on your face. What smells and seasonal foods are abundant this time of year?

Explore why summer days are long and warm in the Northern Hemisphere while the Southern Hemisphere experiences winter.

RESPOND

RESPOND to how longer summer days impact a region's produce growth. During the summer, when the North Pole is tilted toward the sun, Alaska experiences significantly longer periods of daylight, with some regions receiving 22 hours of light. Regions closer to the Arctic Circle, such as Utqiaġvik, Alaska, experience 24 hours of daylight between mid-May and early August. Imagine trying to fall asleep with the bright sun shining! In this region, root vegetables, brassicas, and hearty greens benefit from the extended hours of sunlight which causes this produce to grow larger and taste sweeter.

CREATE

CREATE a sketch that shows the impact of the Earth's position in either the Northern or Southern Hemisphere. You might draw how the summer sun impacts vegetable growth or outdoor play late into the evening hours in Alaska. Or you might draw a family enjoying winter sports in Australia in June.

JUNE

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PRESENT

PRESENT your sketch to family and friends and explain the scene you drew and how it is possible to experience summer or winter in June, depending on what hemisphere you live in.

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Thinking Sheet

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