

Vocabulary:

**axis** – an imaginary line around which an object rotates; in a rotating sphere, such as Earth or other planets, the two ends of the axis are called poles

**Earth** – the third planet from the sun and the fifth largest; the only planet known to support life; the only planet

on which water in liquid form exists, covering more than 70 percent of its surface

**equator** – the imaginary line forming a great circle around Earth's surface halfway between the North and South poles; divides Earth into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere

**hemisphere** – one half of a sphere, formed by a plane that passes through the center of the sphere; either the northern or southern half of Earth as divided by the equator, or the eastern or western half as divided by a meridian

**latitude** – distance north or south on Earth's surface, measured in degrees from the equator, which has a latitude of 0°; used to identify any point on the surface of Earth

**North Pole** – the northern end of Earth's axis of rotation, a point in the Arctic Ocean

**orbit** – the path of a celestial body or an artificial satellite as it revolves around another body; one complete revolution of such a body

**revolve / revolution** – the motion of an object around a point, especially around another object or a center of mass; a single complete cycle of such motion

**rotate / rotation** – the motion of an object around its own axis; a single complete cycle of such motion

**seasons** – one of four natural divisions of the year—spring, summer, autumn, and winter—in the North or South Temperate Zones; each season begins as the sun passes through a solstice or an equinox

**South Pole** – the southern end of Earth's axis of rotation, a point in Antarctica

**sun** – the star that is orbited by all the planets and other bodies of our solar system and that supplies the heat and light that sustain life on Earth; it has a diameter of about 864,000 miles (1,390,000 kilometers) and an average distance from Earth of about 93 million miles

**tilt** – to cause to have an inclination