

WE SPIN!

Our planet Earth never stops spinning. It does a full spin, or **rotation**, every 24 hours. This spinning gives us day and night. It also means that many places on Earth are comfortable places to live.

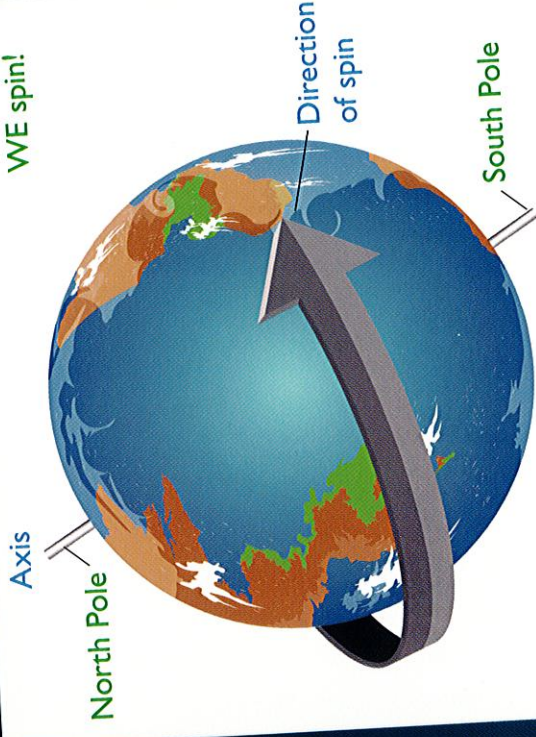
Earth spins from west to east. An easy way to remember this is to think of 'WE spin'. The 'W' stands for 'west' and the 'E' stands for 'east'.

Earth spins like this because the **solar system** started as part of a huge spinning cloud. The cloud **collapsed** and became a huge spinning **disc**. As a result, we are still spinning in space today.

FACT!

The Earth's rotation is very slowly slowing down. This means that the days are getting a tiny bit longer each year.

WE spin!



- ▲ As the Earth spins, one half faces the Sun and **experiences** daytime. The other half faces away from the Sun and experiences night-time.



WE SPIN!

EARTH
AND SPACE
SCIENCES

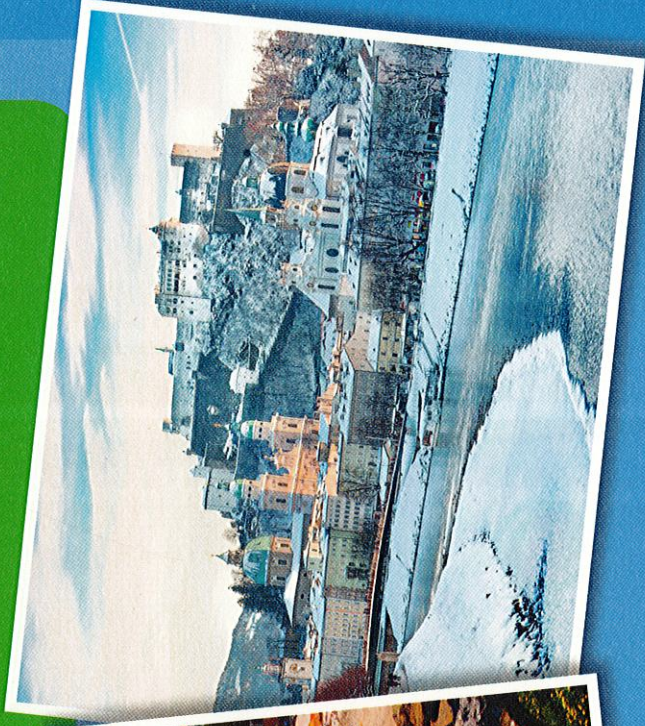
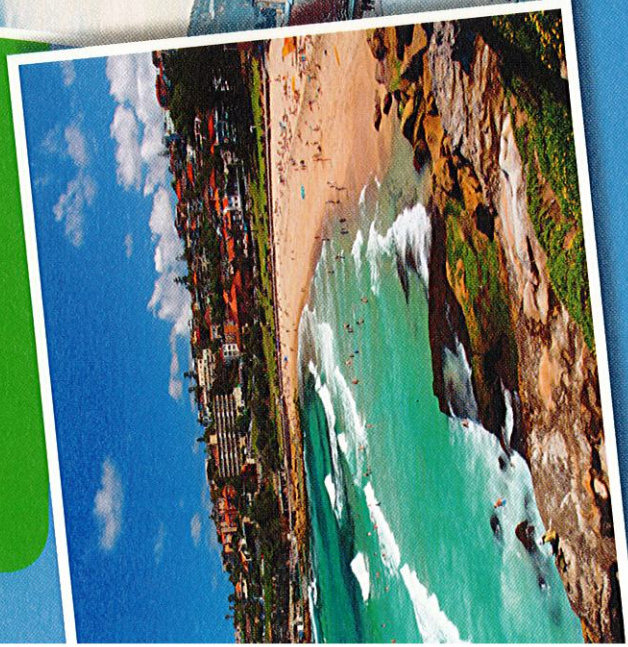
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The Earth's axis

When we talk about the way Earth spins, we say that it spins on its **axis**. Imagine a line going through the Earth, from the **North Pole** to the **South Pole**. This line is what we call the Earth's axis.

The Earth's axis is very important to us. It sits at an angle, or a tilt. As a result, the Sun's light hits different parts of the Earth at different angles during the year. This is what gives us the **seasons** – it makes different areas warmer than others at different times.



▲ When it is summer in Australia, it is winter in Europe.

Scan the code to link to a video about how the tilt in the Earth's axis gives us the seasons.



QUESTIONS

1. Why does the tilt of the Earth's axis make places warmer at different times of the year?
2. Explain how the spinning of the Earth gives us day and night.
3. On the topic card, which word means 'an imaginary line about which an object rotates'?
4. Use the QR code (or <http://qrs.ly/3x4y4zl>) to watch a video about how the Earth's tilt gives us the seasons. Explain why when it is summer in the northern hemisphere, it is the opposite season in the southern hemisphere.
5. In winter, the North and South Poles have 24 hours of darkness. Complete some research to help you understand why this happens.
6. Imagine you lived at the North or South Pole. Write a description about what life would be like in winter, when you have 24 hours of darkness.