



Be a Scientist!

Track the time when the Sun sets. Record the time each day for one week. Then make a graph to show your results. Do you see a pattern? Is the Sun going down earlier or later? Are the days getting longer or shorter?

Now use your graph to make a guess. What time will the Sun go down two weeks from now? Then find out!



Beyond the Book

Use books or the Internet to learn about seasons in another part of the world.

FOCUS Book

Seasons and Sunlight



: Science A-Z 🌐



Seasons and Sunlight



FOCUS Question

How does the amount of sunlight in a day change during the four seasons?

Patterns

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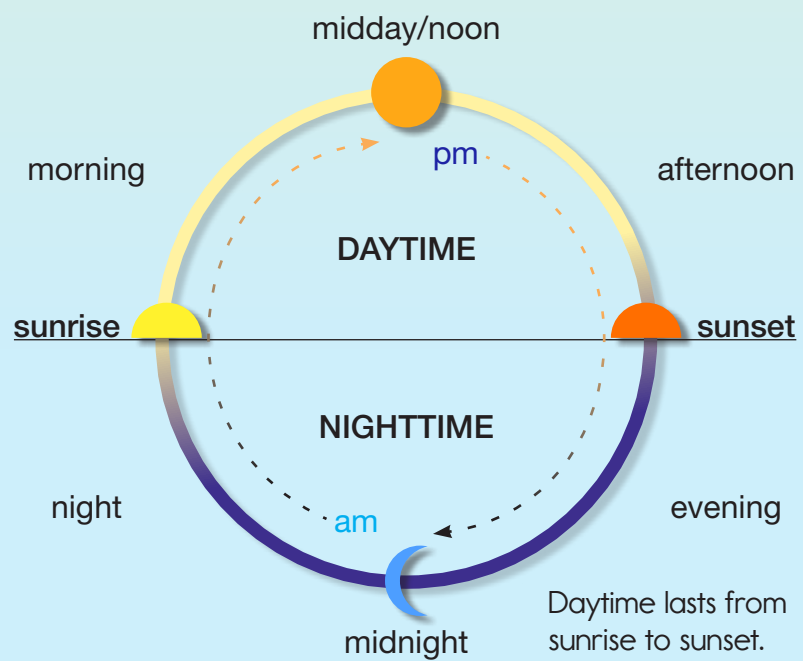
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Long and Short Days

People say that summer has long days. How can this be? All days have 24 hours!

The number of hours in a day does not change. But the time when the Sun comes up in the morning does change. So does the time when the Sun goes down at night.



Read-Think-Write

Write or draw your answers on separate paper. Use details from the book to support each answer.

- 1 What does it mean when someone says that a day is a “long day”?
- 2 Why does the weather get cooler during fall?
- 3 Which season begins on the shortest day of the year? Which begins on the longest day of the year?
- 4 Look at the table on page 9. Spring and fall both begin on days when day and night have the same number of minutes. How are these two seasons different?

FOCUS Question

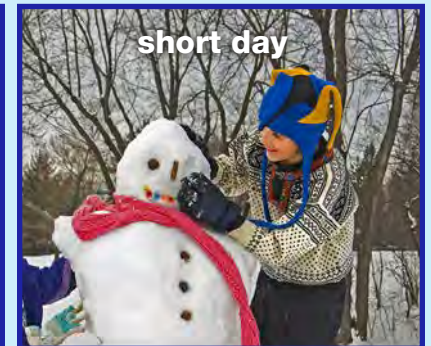
How does the amount of sunlight in a day change during the four seasons? Explain how the minutes of daylight change during the four seasons of a year. Use writing or pictures.



Sometimes the Sun comes up early in the morning. Then it goes down late at night. On these days, there are more minutes of light. We call this a *long day*.

Sometimes the Sun comes up late and goes down early. On these days, there are not as many minutes of light. We call this a *short day*.

AMOUNT OF DAYLIGHT



Fall into Winter

When fall begins, daytime and nighttime have the same number of minutes.



Then the days get shorter. There are fewer minutes of light each day. Nighttime is longer than daytime.

The weather becomes cool.

Word Wise

The fall season is also called *autumn* (AW-tum).



After summer begins, daytime gets shorter. The nights get longer. Soon, daytime and nighttime have the same number of minutes.

The weather gets cool. Good-bye, summer! It is fall again. Time for school!



Season	Season begins . . .	Days are getting . . .	The weather is . . .
fall	when daytime and nighttime are equal	shorter	getting cooler
winter	on the day with the least light	longer	cold
spring	when daytime and nighttime are equal	longer	getting warmer
summer	on the day with the most light	shorter	hot

Hot Summer Days



The Sun comes up earlier each day.
It goes down later.

Summer begins on the longest day
of the year. This day has the most
minutes of light. The weather is hot!

wowser!

In summer near the North Pole, the
Sun stays up all day and all night.
In winter, the Sun *never* comes up!

Cold Winter Days

The Sun comes up later each day.
It goes down earlier.

Winter begins on the shortest day.
This day has the fewest minutes
of light all year.



On a winter morning, it is dark
and cold outside!



Spring Forward!

Spring is coming! The Sun comes up earlier. It goes down later.

Daytime gets longer. But it is still cold. It takes many weeks for the Sun to warm things up.



Now it is the start of spring. Daytime and nighttime have the same number of minutes again.



But the days keep getting longer. Each day has more minutes of light. Daytime gets longer than nighttime. The weather becomes warmer.

