MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

What Is the Winter Solstice?

Visual lesson

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Dark already?

Dara and Lin are playing in the courtyard. But the sky is already turning dark, and the windows are lighting up. "Why is it getting dark already?" says Lin. "We only just had lunch!"





Long shadows

At lunchtime the next day, Dara's grandpa points at the ground. Dara's and Lin's shadows stretch long, long, long across the courtyard!

TALK ABOUT IT

Long shadows at lunchtime mean the Sun is...

A leaning globe

Indoors, Grandpa puts a lamp on the table. "This is the Sun," he says. Then he sets down Grandma Bea's globe. "The Earth does not stand straight up. It is tilted. It leans, just like this globe."





Leaning away

Grandpa turns the globe so its top half leans away from the lamp. "That is how the Earth is in December," he says. "And we live on the top half."

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> The top half leans away from the lamp. Does it get more light or less?

Short and low

Less light! When our half of the Earth leans away from the Sun, the Sun stays low in the sky and is up for a shorter time. That is why winter days are short.





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The winter solstice

The day our half leans furthest away is called the winter solstice. It comes around the twenty-first of December. It is the shortest day and the longest night of the whole year.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> When the top half of the Earth leans away from the Sun, what about the bottom half?

Summer down south

On that very same day, in Australia and other places in the south of the world, it is the longest day of summer! Lin puts on her sunglasses, just for fun.





Welcome back, light

After the solstice, the days slowly grow longer again. So on the longest night, many families celebrate the light coming back. Dara's family keeps Yalda, and Lin's family keeps Dongzhi. Look at your shadow at lunchtime this week!

Check your wonder

1 **Why are winter days short?**

- **A.** Our half of the Earth leans away from the Sun
- **B.** The Sun gets tired in winter
- **C.** Clouds hide the Sun all day

2 **What is the winter solstice?**

- **A.** The shortest day and longest night of the year
- **B.** The coldest day of the year
- **C.** The first snowy day

3 **What is the weather like in Australia at the December solstice?**

- **A.** Summer, with the longest day
- **B.** Winter, with the shortest day
- **C.** Spring, with lots of rain

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A

1. Yes! The tilt makes our half lean away. 2. That's it. It comes around 21 December. 3. Yes! That's why Lin put on her sunglasses.

THE END

Visual lesson

Put your child in this story

Free to try. Scan the code or visit

littlestorybook.ai/learn/en/winter-solstice-for-kids

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