

KS1 Geography: The seasons

What causes the seasons?

MADDIE: These three are enjoying the season of winter! There are four seasons in every year.

CHILD: Spring, summer...

CHILD: Autumn and winter.

MADDIE: They all look and feel quite different. Do you know what causes the seasons?

CHILD: Is it the sun?

MADDIE: You're right, it does have a lot to do with the sun.

We live on the Earth. Earth is one of eight planets in a group called the solar system, but only Earth has living things on it. At the centre of the solar system is our sun. The sun is an enormous ball of energy that lights and warms our planet.

Throughout the year, all the planets, including the Earth move around the sun in what is called an orbit. It takes 365 days for Earth to orbit the sun. That's one whole year! As the Earth goes around the sun, it's also spinning around like this.

The Earth isn't completely upright, it spins on a tilt which means the sun's rays aren't always hitting the same spot. So at different times of the year, a different part of the planet is tilted towards the sun.

Here's where the UK is on the planet. So when our part of the Earth is tilted towards the sun our weather is hotter and with more hours of daylight. This is our summer. But when our part of the Earth is tilted away from the sun, fewer of the sun's rays are reaching us. It's colder and darker. This is our winter.

CHILD: Are the seasons the same in all parts of the world?

MADDIE: Great question! Different countries around the world experience seasons at different times of the year. December, January, and February are the winter months in the UK, which is usually when it's the coldest, you might even see frost and snow! But in other countries, on the other side of the world, these same months are the summer months.

CHILD: Woah! Imagine having hot weather in February!

CHILD: Yeah, that would seem so strange!

MADDIE: Let's find out what it's like to live in Australia...

CHILD: Hello, I'm Annabelle and right now it's summer in Australia. The weather is very hot. The summer months in Australia are December, January, February.

I love living here because I can go for a swim or I can go play in the park with my friends.

Even in the winter time it's still pretty hot and really dry and we definitely don't get snow. Look at these pretty flowers.

Bye, everyone! Thanks for exploring the seasons in Australia with me!

MADDIE: So, you see, seasons are different depending on where you are on Earth.

CHILD: And whether your part of the earth is tilting towards the sun or away from the sun.

MADDIE: Exactly!

What are you lot up to?

CHILD: We are writing poems about how the seasons affect our daily lives.

MADDIE: Good work!

CHILD: *Warm by the fire,
Icicles hanging from the house,
No gleaming sun shines down,
Riding down a hill in a sleigh.*