READING MATERIAL

Read About Seasons and Day Length

SEASONS AND DAY LENGTH DEFINITION

There are four seasons that repeat every year in the same order. The seasons are winter, spring, summer and fall. The amount of daylight in an area during certain months is what causes seasons.

To better understand how seasons and day length work...

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

Summer is the warmest season.

Summer has the most daylight. Sunlight warms the Earth for longer periods of time causing the area around you to heat up more in the summer. In the summer trees are green.

Fall always follows summer.

In the fall, the days begin to get shorter and the temperature begins to cool down. Leaves turn colors and begin to fall from the trees. Many animals start getting ready for winter.

Winter always follows fall.

In winter there is the least amount of daylight. Less sunlight is warming the Earth in winter, so the weather is cold. Most trees have no leaves and it can snow.

Spring always follows winter.

In the spring the days begin to get longer, and the temperature warms up. Trees begin to grow flowers and leaves. Animals like bears come out of hibernation in the spring.

Seasons happen in a pattern.

Each year seasons follow the same pattern. First there is winter, followed by spring, then summer and fall. Once those seasons are over, the pattern begins again in the same order.

SEASONS AND DAY LENGTH VOCABULARY

Season	One of four times of year with different weather and different amounts of daylight.

Winter	Winter is one of the four seasons. It can get very cold, there can be snow on the ground and trees have no leaves.
Spring	Spring is one of the four seasons. The days start to get longer, and the temperature begins to warm up. Flowers and new leaves begin to grow.
Summer	Summer is one of the four seasons. It has long warm days with lots of daylight. Trees are green in the summer.
Fall	Fall is one of the four seasons. There is less daylight than summer, the temperature cools down and leaves on trees change colors.
Daylight	The time between sunrise and sunset when the sun is shining.

SEASONS AND DAY LENGTH QUESTIONS

What is one reason that summer days are warmer than winter days?

Summer days are warmer because there is more daylight. The sun is out for longer on summer days and the sunlight helps warm the Earth.

What are some signs that fall is coming?

Leaves on the trees start to turn colors in the fall. It also gets a little cooler since there is less daylight.

How do some animals prepare for winter?

Squirrels find food to store for the winter. Some animals like bears hibernate, which means they sleep through the winter.

How is the amount of daylight different in winter than summer?

There are more hours of daylight in the summer than in the winter.

Why do we say that seasons follow a pattern?

Seasons always happen in the same order and then they repeat. Winter, spring, summer, fall... Winter, spring, summer, fall... Winter, spring, summer, fall.

How does a tree change throughout the seasons?

In winter, trees have no leaves. In spring, they begin to get flowers and new leaves. In summer lots of leaves are on the trees. In the fall the leaves change colors and begin to fall off the trees.