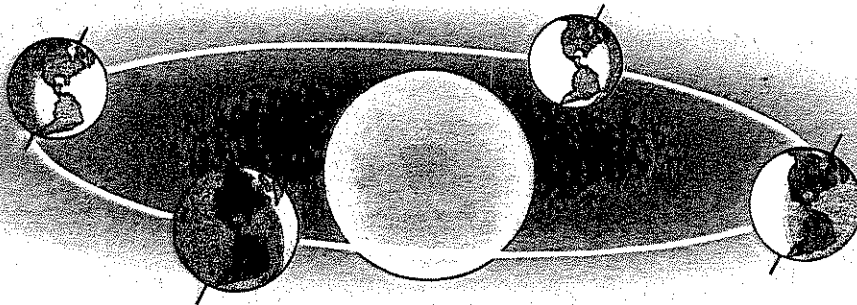


REASONS for the SEASONS

The different ways the Earth tilts toward the sun is what makes our seasons. The tilt decides how much light and heat Earth gets from the sun. It takes one year for the Earth to revolve, or take its trip around the sun. While it's revolving, different parts of Earth are closer to the sun than others. This gives us the four seasons, each about three months long. The seasons show themselves in many ways across the U.S. For example, it may not snow in Phoenix, Arizona in the winter, but it does get cooler. And while the official first day of spring is in March, it may arrive later in the North, or earlier in the South.



When the North Pole is tipped toward the sun and the South Pole is tipped away, it is summer here in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern Hemisphere. Six months later, the North Pole is tipped away and it is winter here and summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

SPRING!

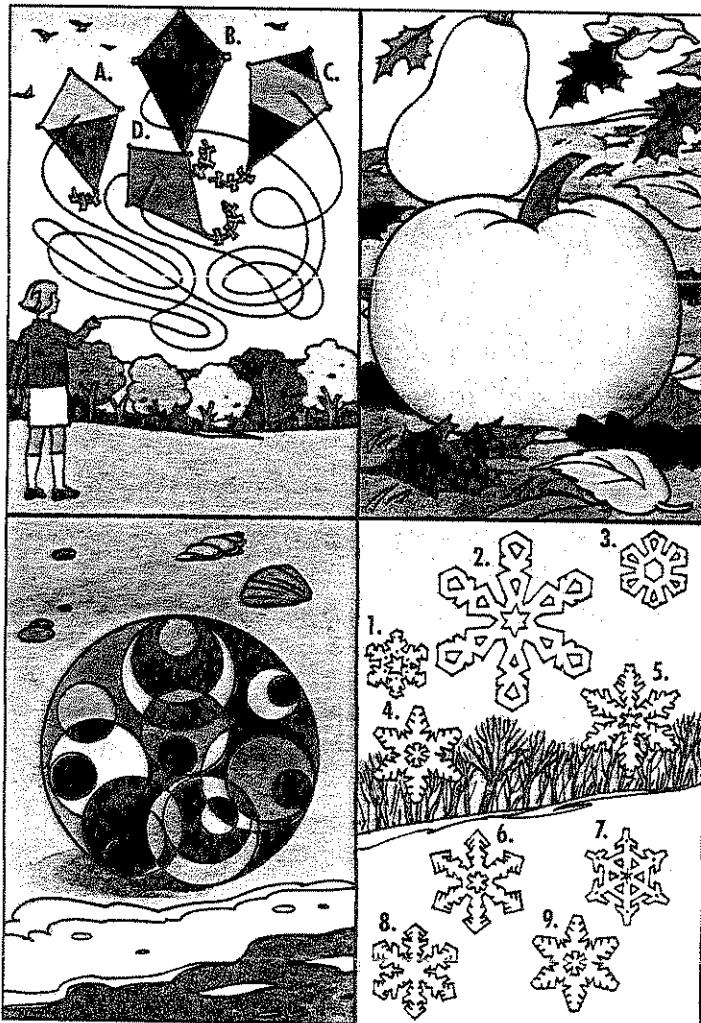
Around March 21 is the first day of spring, when the sun is directly opposite the equator and there is the same amount of daylight and darkness. The air is warmer. Birds that migrated away for the winter return. And the spring winds make for good kite flying. Which kite belongs to the girl?

ANSWER: C

SUMMER!

Summer begins close to June 21. Now, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted most toward the sun. The days are longer, the sun is higher in the sky, and more sunlight reaches the ground for a longer time. The warm earth makes flowers and crops grow. It is a good time for people to have fun outdoors. How many circles can you count on this beach ball?

ANSWER: 20



FALL!

The air begins to cool in autumn which begins about September 21. Again, daylight and darkness are about the same length of time. But the days begin to grow shorter. The sun is lower. The leaves on the trees turn bright colors, falling and blowing to the ground. It is the time when you go back to school and farmers harvest their crops. Can you draw faces on these harvest vegetables?

WINTER!

Near the 21st of December, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted farthest from the sun. Days are short. Maybe it's dark when you wake up and dark even at dinner time. With the cold winter days, there aren't as many animals around. Some birds have migrated while other animals are hibernating. Sometimes it's fun for you to "hibernate" and stay cozy inside. Which two snowflakes are the same?

ANSWERS: 4 and 9

Discover for yourself: What happens with the weather at the equator, the line that goes around the middle of the Earth?

Why is it always cold at the North Pole and South Pole? What kind of celebrations did ancient people have to mark the beginning of each season? Why is autumn sometimes called "fall"? What makes springtime so windy?

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