

# Summer Solstice



# Aims

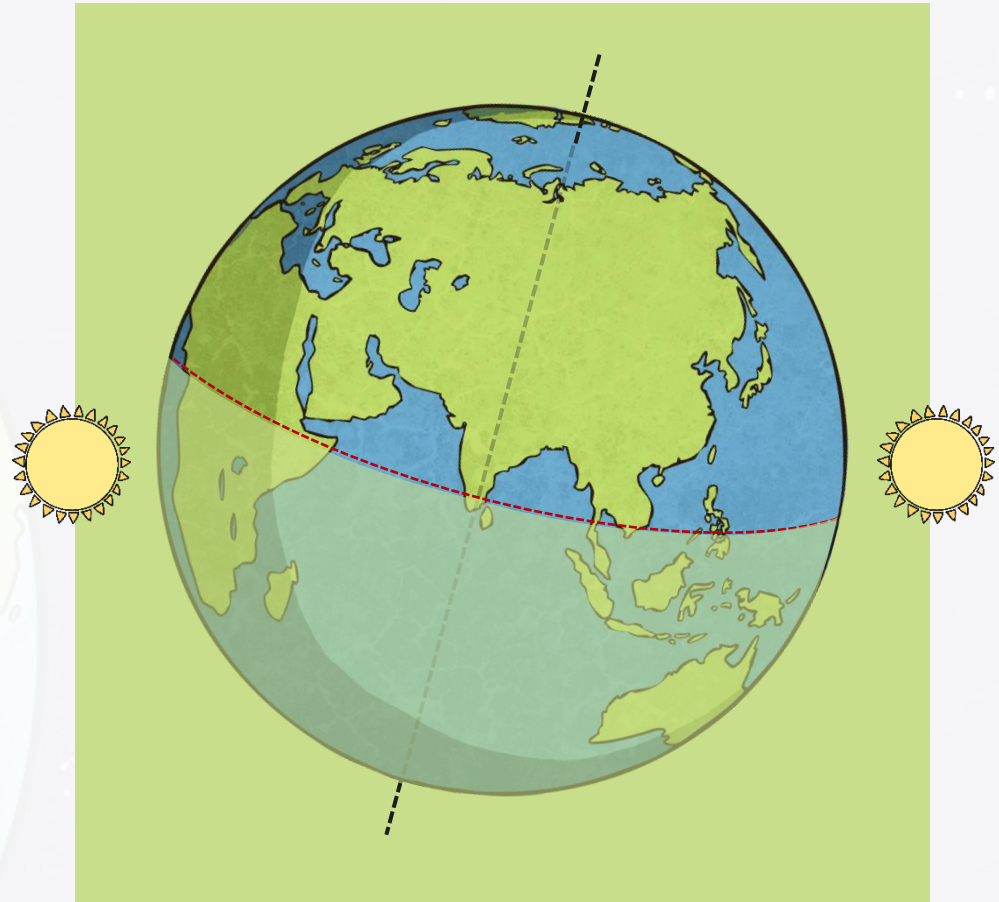
- To understand what the summer solstice is.
- To begin to understand the origins of the summer solstice celebrations.



# Earth and Sun

If you live in the northern hemisphere (above the equator), Earth is tilted closer to the Sun in the summer, getting more light and heat.

It is further away from the Sun in the winter, so countries in the northern hemisphere receive less light and heat.



# What Is the Summer Solstice?



The summer solstice marks the change when the days begin to grow shorter.

The winter solstice marks the change when days begin to grow longer.

Did You Know...?

During the summer, the Arctic is known as Land of the Midnight Sun as there is daylight for 24 hours of the day!

# When Is the Summer Solstice?



This year the summer solstice begins around June 20<sup>th</sup>. This is also known as the first day of summer and the longest day of the year.

On this day, there is the most daylight. On this day, the sun rises around 4:45a.m. and sets around 9:30p.m.

This doesn't mean there are more hours in the day, just that there are more hours of daylight.

# Sun Facts



The early Egyptians believed that the Sun was a god called Ra.

The ultraviolet light in the Sun can cause damage to the eyes and skin, so they need to be protected, even when it doesn't feel hot.

Throughout history, people have told the time by looking at where the Sun was in the sky at different times of the day.

# Historic Celebrations

Both summer solstice and winter solstice have been celebrated around the world for centuries.

People celebrated the summer solstice as they were grateful for the power of the Sun.

The Celts celebrated with bonfires that would add to the sun's energy, Christians placed the feast of Saint John the Baptist towards the end of June and it is also the festival of Li, the Chinese Goddess of light.



# A Pagan Celebration

Solstice, or Litha, means a stopping or standing still of the sun.

As the sun spirals its longest dance,  
Cleanse us  
As nature shows bounty and fertility  
Bless us  
Let all things live with loving intent  
And to fulfill their truest destiny

**Wiccan blessing for Summer**





# Summer Solstice at Ancient Sites



During the summer solstice, many people gather together at ancient monuments believed to have spiritual significance, such as Stonehenge. Traditionally, people will aim to see the sunrise and watch the sun align through specific stones.

# Solstice Celebrations around the World

Since medieval times in Austria, people have lit mountain bonfires to worship the Earth.

In Stockholm, people celebrate midsummer with dancing and singing as on that day the sky never quite darkens due to where Sweden is situated.



# Summer Solstice Celebrations around the World



Some areas of the US hold summer solstice parades in honour of the Sun.

Did You Know...?  
Without the Sun, there would be no life on Earth.



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