10.2 Earth in Space

Question: How does the Earth move?

\*\*Earth moves in space in TWO MAJOR WAYS: rotation & revolution.

ROTATION

The imaginary line that passes through Earth’s center & both poles is the Earth’s axis.

The spinning of Earth on its axis is called rotation.

Rotation is what allows for day & night.

Night=Sunlight cannot reach the side of Earth facing away from the sun

A day=24 hours=1 rotation

REVOLUTION

Revolution is the movement of one object around another. 1 revolution=1year

The path of Earth is called it’s orbit.

Question: What causes season?

\*\*Earth has seasons because its axis is tilted as it revolves around the sun. (without the tilt, temperatures would remain fairly constant, therefore no seasons)

Earth’s tilt=23.5\* angle

SOLSTICES

Solstice is when the sun appears farthest north of the equator once each year & farthest south once each year.

June 21st is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, this is the summer solstice for us while the winter solstice (shortest day of the year) for the Southern Hemisphere. Usually June 21st.

EQUINOXES

An equinox mean “equal night.” This means there is equal amounts of day & night (12 hours each) on that day.

For the Northern Hemisphere, the spring equinox is March 21st, which marks the beginning of spring, and the fall equinox is September 22, the beginning of fall.