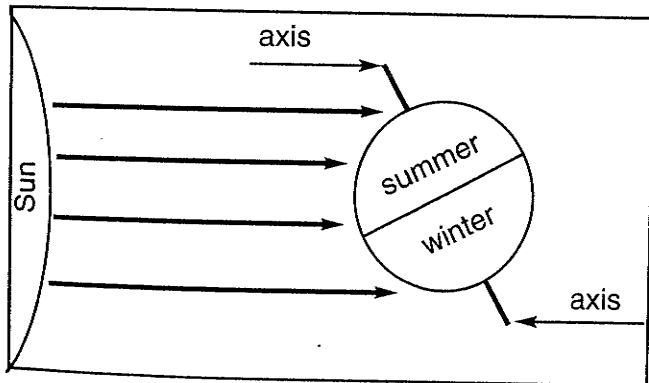


Name _____

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Earth has a North Pole and a South Pole. A pretend line called the axis goes from the North Pole through Earth to the South Pole. The axis is tilted, or slanted a little to one side. As Earth revolves, or goes around the Sun, at times the North Pole is turned toward the Sun. When this happens, the northern half of Earth gets more sunlight and warms up. We call this "summer." At the same time, the southern half gets less sunlight and has "winter." When Earth goes to the other side of the Sun, the southern half of Earth gets more sunlight. It has summer while the north has winter. The movement around the Sun and the tilted axis are what give Earth its four seasons!



1. What is the name of the imaginary line that runs through Earth?

- North Pole
- South Pole
- axis
- NH

2. Why does each pole get more or less sunlight at different times of the year?

- Earth spins around the Sun
- the axis is tilted
- the Sun pulls away from Earth
- NH

3. What is summer?

- when the North Pole gets sunlight
- when half of Earth gets more sunlight than the other half
- when the South Pole gets sunlight
- NH

4. What causes Earth's seasons?

- North Pole and South Pole
- the Sun and the Moon
- tilted axis and revolution
- NH

5. How many seasons are in a year?

- two
- three
- four
- NH

6. How long is one revolution around the Sun?

- one day
- one week
- one month
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Summer is the warm season or time of year. Our part of Earth is tilted toward the Sun. It gets more hours of sunlight which helps warm the land, air, and water. During the summer, people wear light clothing and go swimming to keep cool. They wear hats, lotion, and sunglasses to protect their skin and eyes from the bright light. It is easy to get sunburned if you don't protect your skin! There are more hours of daylight than hours of darkness, so we can stay up later and enjoy the outdoors more.

1. What would be a good title for this story?

- Keeping Cool**
- Summer**
- Wear a Hat!**
- NH**

2. What is one way to protect your eyes from the bright sunlight?

- go swimming**
- wear a hat with a big brim**
- put lotion on**
- NH**

3. Which is true of the summer?

- there are more hours of darkness**
- there are more hours of sunlight**
- there are less hours of sunlight**
- NH**

4. What do most people do during the summer?

- eat more**
- drive to the mountains**
- stay inside**
- NH**

5. What wouldn't you do to keep yourself cooler in the summer?

- wear lighter clothes**
- wear a coat to keep the sunlight off**
- go swimming**
- NH**

6. What does the word "season" mean?

- time of year**
- summer**
- protection**
- NH**

7. How late do most people stay up during the summer season?

- 10 o'clock**
- 11 o'clock**
- 12 o'clock**
- NH**

8. Why do we get sunburned so easily in the summer?

- the Earth is tilted toward the Sun**
- the air is so warm**
- Earth is tilted away from the Sun**
- NH**

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

After it rains, the grass is wet, and puddles are on the sidewalk. The warm sunlight and the wind work together to evaporate the water. *Evaporate* means to turn water into a gas called water vapor. The water vapor rises and sticks to small pieces of dust in the air. As the air rises, it gets cooler and the water vapor condenses, or turns back to water. Dust and condensation gather in a group and form a cloud. As the cloud gathers more condensation, it gets darker. Soon the cloud cannot hold all the water. It falls back to Earth as precipitation. Precipitation is any form of water that falls from a cloud to the ground. The process of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation is called the water cycle.

1. What is the main idea of this story?

- Precipitation is Water
- The Water Cycle
- Clouds
- NH

2. What does rising water vapor condense on?

- clouds
- pieces of dust
- warm air
- NH

3. What does the word "evaporate" mean?

- disappear
- turn into water vapor
- turn back into water
- NH

4. How long does it take for water to condense?

- after a storm
- until a cloud forms
- three hours of sunlight and wind
- NH

5. Which of these things is not a kind of precipitation?

- dust particles
- sleet
- snow
- NH

6. What is it called when water falls, evaporates, forms into clouds, and falls again?

- condensation
- water cycle
- precipitation
- NH

7. How does the dust get into the air?

- from farms
- the water cycle leaves it behind
- dirt blows into the sky
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

One of the four seasons is the fall, or autumn. Hours of daylight and dark are about the same during the fall. The weather becomes cooler, and living things get ready for the cold winter months ahead.

The foods we get from many plants are ready to be picked. Many of the summer plants turn brown and die. Their growing season is over. Other plants, like some trees, put their energy into their roots, letting the leaves slowly turn color and fall from the branches.

Animals gather and store nuts and seeds to eat later in the winter. They build nests inside trees or under the ground where they are more protected from the cold. Some animals grow more fur to help keep them warm. Many birds fly south, or migrate, for the winter.

People also use the fall to prepare for winter. Farmers gather their crops and store them in cool, dry places. People make sure their homes are tight so the cold winds won't get in. They take out heavier clothes like coats and sweaters to protect them from the cooler temperatures.

1. What is the main idea of this story?

- Fall is a fun season.
- Animals prepare for winter.
- Living things prepare for winter.
- NH

2. What season comes after autumn?

- fall
- summer
- winter
- NH

3. How do plants prepare for winter?

- grow new leaves
- put energy into their roots
- grow hard outer shells
- NH

4. What is one way animals don't prepare for winter?

- build warmer homes
- grow more fur
- raise, gather, and store their food
- NH

5. What do animals of the ocean do to prepare for winter?

- dig holes on the ocean floor
- grow longer fur
- come to the land
- NH

6. Which way to prepare for winter is not mentioned in this story?

- migration
- gathering food
- hibernation
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Autumn is the season when many leaves change color and fall off the branches. Trees that lose their leaves are called deciduous. Do you know why this happens? A tree has many tubes, like veins, reaching from the roots to the leaves. Sap flows through the tubes, carrying water and minerals to the leaves. During the cold winter months, the sap would freeze if it stayed in the tubes. The tree would die with the sap all frozen.

When the weather starts to get cool, the sap goes down to the roots to stay for the winter. Without the water supply, the leaves slowly starve to death. They lose their green color and change to orange, yellow, brown or red. They can no longer hold on to the tree, so they fall to the ground. Maybe that is why so many people call the autumn "fall"!

1. What is the main idea of this story?

- Why leaves are green
- How trees lose their leaves
- Autumn is a nice season
- NH

2. Where does the sap go for the winter?

- It migrates south with the birds
- to the leaves
- to the roots
- NH

3. What causes the leaves to die?

- they need food
- they need water and minerals
- they need sunshine
- NH

4. How long is it before the sap returns to the leaves?

- six hours
- twenty-five days
- seven months
- NH

5. Why does sap stay in the roots all winter?

- to kill the leaves
- to keep from freezing
- to feed the roots
- NH

6. What does the word "deciduous" mean?

- a tree that loses its leaves
- sap that stays in the roots
- autumn
- NH

7. Why might people call autumn "fall"?

- many people fall in the autumn
- many leaves fall in the autumn
- it just feels like everything is falling
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Winter is the coldest season of the year. Your part of Earth gets less sunlight and more darkness. Earth does not have enough sunlight to keep it warm. Many times the precipitation from clouds will freeze and fall as snow. Snow may cover the ground for a few months during the winter!

Plants stop growing and some die during the winter. Other plants and seeds are covered by the snow and must wait for spring to warm them up and make them grow

Animals have a hard time finding food. Many will eat what they stored in the fall. Other animals curl up in a hole or cave and hibernate, or go to sleep for the entire winter! Some birds and insects may migrate to warmer parts of the world.

People do not have to hibernate or migrate. They wear warmer clothes and heat their homes to stay warm. Even the deep snows of winter do not stop people. They ski or ride snowmobiles that race across the top of the snow. Some people even invented a sport called hockey just for the winter.

1. What is the main idea of this story?

- What animals do in winter
- The winter season
- Plants and animals
- NH

2. What causes the cold weather of winter?

- snow
- sunlight doesn't warm Earth
- the north wind blows
- NH

3. What makes winter so hard for most animals?

- there isn't enough water
- they can't find enough food
- they sleep too much
- NH

4. Which living thing is bothered the least by winter?

- humans
- plants
- birds
- NH

5. What sport was made to play in the winter?

- baseball
- soccer
- hockey
- NH

6. What does the word "hibernate" mean?

- to fly south for the winter
- dress warmly and face the winter
- to sleep all winter
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

During the cold winter months, the sky is often full of gray clouds. The clouds are full of water, just like they are in the summer months. They become full of water and fall to the ground. However, the air between the clouds and the ground is colder at this time of year. The water drops that fall from the clouds freeze as they fall to the ground. These frozen droplets are called snow. Each snowflake is unusual because it freezes in a different pattern as it falls to the ground. The first snows of winter quickly melt when they land. That is because the ground is still a little warm from the summer months. As more snow falls, the ground freezes as well, and the snow will not melt as quickly. The ground will freeze as far as three feet below the grass! The snow will melt, and the ground will thaw as the weather gets warmer.

1. What do we call frozen flakes of water that fall in the winter?

- rain
- hail
- snow
- NH

2. Why is each snowflake unusual?

- they have seven points
- they freeze differently
- they melt when they land
- NH

3. What makes the water freeze as it falls?

- it falls very fast
- it falls through colder air
- it freezes before it falls
- NH

4. Why is the air colder in winter than in summer?

- we do not get as much sunshine
- Earth is farther from the Sun
- it spreads from the South Pole
- NH

5. How deep will the snow get on the ground?

- three feet
- two feet
- five feet
- NH

6. What happens when spring comes?

- snow melts and the ground thaws
- we get even more snow
- snow freezes in new patterns
- NH

7. Which sport would most likely not be done outside in the winter?

- ice skating
- water skiing
- snow skiing
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Spring is the season that comes after winter and before summer. Our part of Earth begins to turn back toward the Sun. We get more hours of sunlight that help warm the air and ground. Snow melts and warmer rain falls. The grass turns green again. Sap returns to the trees, new leaves form, and plants begin to grow. Birds migrate north, and other animals come out of hibernation, or a long winter nap. Earth seems to come alive with new growth. Many animals build new homes and have babies during the spring. This is the season where everything feels fresh and new. People put away their heavy winter clothes and take out umbrellas. Children put away ice skates and sleds. They take out roller skates and bicycles. Spring is here!

1. When does the spring season come?

- between summer and fall
- between winter and summer
- between summer and winter
- NH

2. What changes happen to the Earth in spring?

- the ground and air get colder
- the Sun warms the ground and air
- rain freezes and the ground thaws
- NH

3. What are the first plants that grow in the spring?

- flowers
- trees
- grass
- NH

4. What would be a good title for this story?

- The Animals Wake Up!
- Spring Brings Changes to the Earth
- Put Away Your Sleds!
- NH

5. What does the word "hibernation" mean?

- building new homes
- returning to the north
- sleeping all winter
- NH

6. What makes Earth warm up in the spring?

- the wind blows from the south
- there are more hours of sunlight
- it just happens that way
- NH

7. Why are animals more active in the spring than during the winter?

- they are too warm
- they are not as tired
- they are afraid of snow
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Plants do not make babies the same way animals do. Plants make seeds that grow into new plants. Some plants make their seeds inside flowers. Roses, tulips, and daisies are some of the flowers that make seeds. Other plants make seeds inside their fruit. Blueberries, apples, and melons all hold the seeds of their plants. Nuts are also the seeds of plants. Pecans, acorns, almonds, and peanuts are all seeds. The pine tree makes its seeds in a cone.

Seeds get to the ground in many ways. Animals may eat fruit and carry the seeds to far off places. Squirrels gather nuts and bury them to eat later. Some of the nuts don't get eaten and may grow into new plants. Birds and bees help to spread the seeds of flowering plants. No matter how they get to the ground, most plants started out as seeds!

1. Which of these is not a seed?

- peanut
- walnut
- apple
- NH

2. Which animals help spread the seeds of flowers?

- bears and rabbits
- bees and birds
- squirrels and birds
- NH

3. Where does a cactus make its seeds?

- nuts
- cones
- leaves
- NH

4. How do animals help make new plants?

- they plant seedlings
- they help spread seeds
- they eat the flowers
- NH

5. Which of these plants makes seeds inside flowers?

- oak trees
- apple trees
- dandelions
- NH

6. How many types of seeds are named in this story?

- two
- three
- four
- NH

7. What would be a good name for this story?

- The Way Plants Grow
- Plants Come From Seeds
- Seeds Taste Good
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Have you ever looked up into the sky and wondered about clouds? What are they? Where did they come from? Clouds are made when heat makes water evaporate, or become a gas called water vapor. The water vapor rises in the air until it starts to cool. It clings to small pieces of dust in the air and condenses, or turns back into a liquid. These small water droplets and dust gather together and soon form a cloud. Some clouds are thin wisps in the sky. Others are puffy and round, like balls of cotton. Sometimes the puffy ones turn gray or black. These clouds are full of water and cannot hold much more! Clouds help Earth, too. They give us shade on hot summer days. Clouds give us rain that makes things grow. Clouds also give us the snow that makes winter more fun!

1. What two things make a cloud?

- dust and water
- water and cotton
- gas and water vapor
- NH

2. What is about to happen when a cloud turns gray or black?

- it will get warmer
- it will get cooler
- it will rain or snow
- NH

3. How does heat help make a cloud?

- heat causes condensation
- heat causes rain
- heat causes evaporation
- NH

4. What is another name for water that has turned into a gas?

- condensation
- evaporation
- water vapor
- NH

5. In which way don't clouds help us?

- they give us rain
- they give us snow
- they give us shade
- NH

6. What does "condensation" mean?

- turning into a gas
- turning back into a liquid
- turning into water vapor
- NH

7. How big can a cloud get?

- as big as a country
- as big as a mountain
- as big as a continent
- NH

Name _____

Skill: Expository Passages

DIRECTIONS: Read each story, then read each question. Read all the answers then mark the space for the answer you think is right. Mark NH (not here) if the answer can't be figured out from the story.

Every living thing needs water to live. Is rain the only way water comes back to Earth? Not quite. Water can fall from the clouds in a few different ways. During the summer months we usually get rain. Sometimes the air around the clouds is very cold, even in the summer, and the water freezes into balls before it falls. These ice balls are called hail. During the colder months the water passes through cold air and freezes as it falls. These frozen flakes of water are called snow. Sometimes the air is near freezing, and the water falls as both snow and water together! This mixture of snow and water is called sleet. Any water that falls from clouds is called precipitation. Rain, hail, snow, and sleet are four forms of precipitation.

1. What is formed when water in clouds freezes and falls as ice

- rain
- hail
- sleet
- NH

2. What is this story about?

- snow
- clouds
- precipitation
- NH

3. What do we call any water that falls from the clouds?

- rain
- ice balls
- precipitation
- NH

4. What causes snow?

- the water freezes before it falls
- the water freezes as it falls
- the water freezes after it falls
- NH

5. What affects the form of precipitation that will fall?

- the air temperature
- the size of the cloud
- the temperature of the ground
- NH

6. What do we call it when rain, snow, hail, and sleet fall at the same time?

- crazy
- snow-rain
- sleet-hail
- NH

7. What form of precipitation falls to the Earth as liquid water?

- snow
- hail
- rain
- NH