

Name: _____

What Causes the Seasons?

Directions: Draw the Earth as it would look for the United States during the four seasons.

The seasons are caused by the movement of the Earth around the sun, the tilt of the Earth, and how high the sun will get in the sky. The earth moves two ways; it rotates on its axis and simultaneously makes revolutions around the sun. It takes the earth about 24 hours, or one day, to make one complete rotation. It takes a little over 365 days, or one year, for the earth to make one full revolution around the sun. The rotation and revolution of the Earth alone do not cause our seasons. You must add the tilt of the earth. As the earth spins, it also tilts. It is because of this tilt that we have seasons. This will change how high the sun will get in the sky. When the sun is higher in the sky, it will be summer. The higher the sun gets, the more it can warm the earth. During the winter, the sun is lower in the sky.

