Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Summer Nights Barely Get Dark in Norway

Circle group

In the far north of Norway, a summer night can look like the middle of the afternoon. At midnight, the sun may still be in the sky. Families go for walks. Kids kick a ball. Some people even mow the lawn. This is called the midnight sun.

The cause is the way Earth is tilted. Our planet does not spin straight up and down. It leans to one side as it goes around the sun. In summer, the north end of Earth leans toward the sun. Places very far north, in a region called the Arctic, are tipped so far that the sun never fully sets. For weeks, the sun goes around low in the sky.

Winter is the opposite. The north end leans away. The sun stays below the horizon for weeks. The sky glows soft blue for a few hours at midday. The rest of the time is dark. People light candles and lamps to make the days cozy.

How do people sleep when it is bright at midnight? Many hang thick curtains on their windows. Some feel full of energy in the long days, and they stay up late outdoors.

Questions

1. What is the midnight sun?

_____

_____

2. What causes the midnight sun?

_____

_____

3. What happens in winter when the north leans away from the sun?

_____

_____

4. How do many people keep their bedrooms dark?

_____

_____

5. Why do people light candles and lamps in winter there?

_____

_____

6. Would a place near the equator see the midnight sun?

_____

_____

Words to know

tilted: leaning to one side instead of standing straight
Arctic: the cold region around the North Pole
horizon: the line where the sky seems to meet the land or sea
midnight: twelve o'clock at night, the middle of the night

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Summer Nights Barely Get Dark in Norway

Triangle group

In the far north of Norway, a summer night can look like the middle of the afternoon. At midnight, the sun may still hang in the sky. Families go for walks, kids kick a ball, and some people even mow the lawn. This is called the midnight sun.

The cause is the way Earth is tilted. Our planet does not spin straight up and down. It leans to one side as it circles the sun. In summer, the northern end of Earth leans toward the sun. Places very far north, in a region called the Arctic, are tipped so far toward the sun that it never fully sets. For weeks, the sun just circles low across the sky.

Winter turns the story around. When the northern end leans away, the sun stays below the horizon for weeks. The sky glows a soft blue for a few hours at midday, and the rest of the time is dark. People light candles and string up lamps to make the days cozy.

How do people sleep when it is bright at midnight? Many hang thick curtains over their windows. Some find that the long days give them lots of energy, and they stay up late to enjoy the outdoors.

Questions

1. What is the midnight sun?

_____

_____

2. What causes the midnight sun?

_____

_____

3. What happens in winter when the north leans away from the sun?

_____

_____

4. How do many people keep their bedrooms dark?

_____

_____

5. Why do people light candles and lamps in winter there?

_____

_____

6. Would a place near the equator see the same midnight sun?

_____

_____

Words to know

tilted: leaning to one side instead of standing straight
Arctic: the cold region around the North Pole
horizon: the line where the sky seems to meet the land or sea
midnight: twelve o'clock at night, the middle of the night

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Summer Nights Barely Get Dark in Norway

Square group

In the far north of Norway, a summer night can resemble the middle of the afternoon. At midnight, the sun may still hang in the sky, so families go out for walks, children kick a ball around, and some people even mow their lawns. This phenomenon is known as the midnight sun.

The cause is the way the Earth is tilted. Our planet does not spin perfectly upright. Instead, it leans to one side as it travels around the sun. During summer, the northern end of the Earth leans toward the sun. Places in the far north, in a region called the Arctic, are tipped so far toward it that the sun never completely sets. For weeks at a time, the sun simply circles low across the sky.

Winter reverses the story. When the northern end leans away from the sun, the sun remains below the horizon for weeks on end. The sky glows a soft blue for a few hours around midday, and the remainder of the time is dark. People light candles and string up lamps to make the short days feel cozy.

How do people manage to sleep when it is bright at midnight? Many hang thick curtains over their windows. Others find that the long days fill them with energy, and they stay up late to enjoy the outdoors.

Questions

1. What is the midnight sun?

_____

_____

2. What causes the midnight sun?

_____

_____

3. What happens in winter when the northern end leans away from the sun?

_____

_____

4. How do many people keep their bedrooms dark in summer?

_____

_____

5. Why do people light candles and lamps in winter there?

_____

_____

6. Would a place near the equator experience the midnight sun?

_____

_____

Words to know

tilted: leaning to one side instead of standing straight
Arctic: the cold region around the North Pole
horizon: the line where the sky seems to meet the land or sea
midnight: twelve o'clock at night, the middle of the night

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why Summer Nights Barely Get Dark in Norway

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why Summer Nights Barely Get Dark in Norway

Easier · 193 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. When the sun stays in the sky at midnight in the far north in summer.
2. Earth is tilted, and in summer the north leans toward the sun.
3. The sun stays below the horizon for weeks.
4. They hang thick curtains on the windows.
5. There is little daylight, so lights make the days cozy.
6. No. Only places very far north or south are tipped enough for the sun to stay up all night.

Triangle: Why Summer Nights Barely Get Dark in Norway

This passage · 206 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. When the sun stays in the sky at midnight in the far north in summer.
2. Earth is tilted, and in summer the north leans toward the sun.
3. The sun stays below the horizon for weeks.
4. They hang thick curtains over the windows.
5. There is little daylight, so lights make the days cozy.
6. No. Only places very far north or south are tipped enough for the sun to stay up all night.

Square: Why Summer Nights Barely Get Dark in Norway

Harder · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. When the sun stays in the sky at midnight in the far north in summer.
2. The Earth is tilted, and in summer the northern end leans toward the sun.
3. The sun remains below the horizon for weeks.
4. They hang thick curtains over their windows.
5. There is very little daylight, so lights make the short days feel cozy.
6. No. Only places very far north or south are tipped enough for the sun to stay up all night.