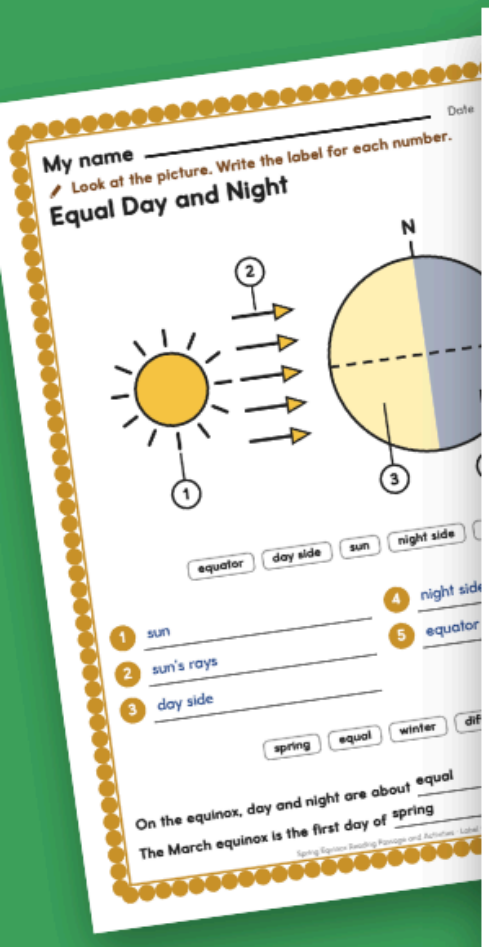
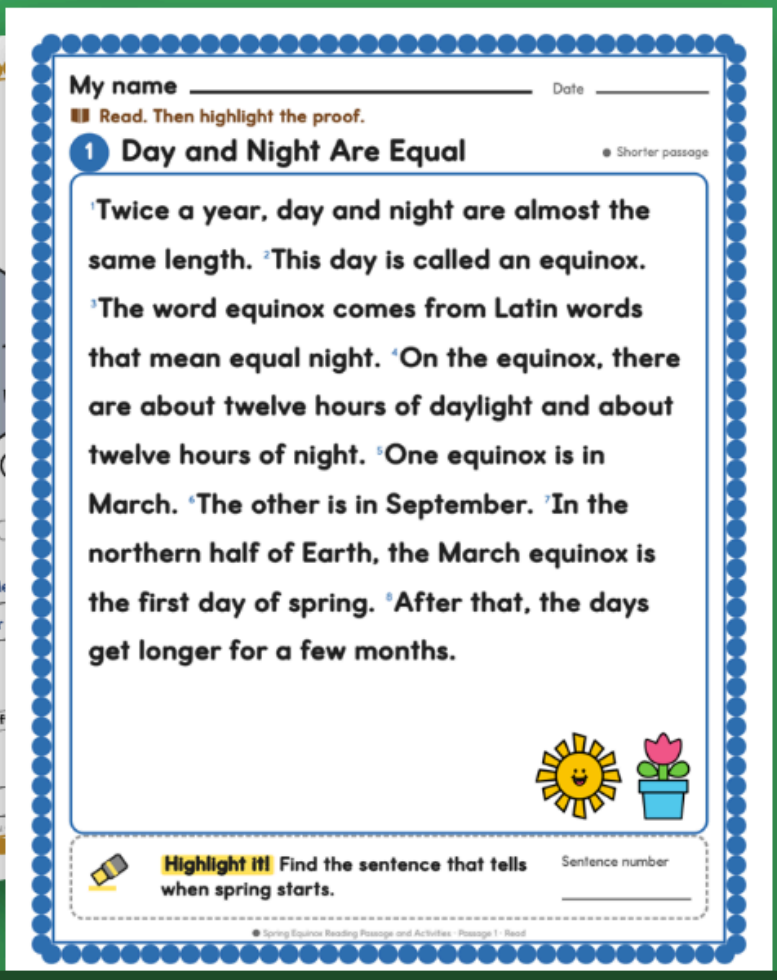
SPRING EQUINOX READING PASSAGE & ACTIVITIES

2 Passages · 10 Questions · Diagram · Key









GRADES 2-4

DAY AND NIGHT EQUAL · GOODBYE WINTER, HELLO SPRING

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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line, type, and Save As.
- The name and date on every student page, the answer lines, the tally boxes, the tracker and every notes area are type-in fields. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- Highlighting is done on paper: print the passage page and highlight or underline, or type the sentence number on the line.
- It works offline: no account or subscription needed.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the passages stay big enough to read. Pages print in color or in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker carries a student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page first. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

Passages at a Glance

2 passages about the spring equinox: 1 shorter and 1 longer, each with questions that stay close to the text.

Both passages

#	Passage	Level	Lines	Words	Pages
1	Day and Night Are Equal	Shorter passage	8	79	6, 7
2	Why We Have Seasons	Longer passage	11	135	8, 9

"Lines" is the number of numbered sentences and "Words" the number of words, for a reading-rate check if you want one.

A routine that fits twenty minutes

- Teach the six words on the Word Match page.
- Read the passage aloud together, then once alone.
- Highlight the proof sentence for the prompt on the passage page.
- Turn the page and answer the five questions. Go back to the text for any answer.
- Check with the key. Color a box on the tracker.

Say it this way

- "Put your finger on the sentence that tells you."
- "What number is that sentence? Say it, then write it."
- "Read the question again. Which choice matches the text?"

About the equinox

- The March equinox is the first day of spring in the northern half of Earth and the first day of fall in the southern half. The date changes a little from year to year; check the exact day for your year with NASA or the National Weather Service.
- Both passages keep to basic facts. The sources are on the last page.

Ways to adjust a page

- Read the passage aloud first, then let the child read it.
- Let the child say an answer while you write it.
- Use the diagram page with the shorter passage, or after the longer one.

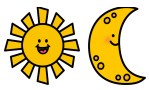
PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter.

Word Match

1 equinox			A one of the four parts of the year
2 daylight			B a day when day and night are almost the same length
3 tilted			C an imaginary line around the middle of Earth
4 season			D not real; only in your mind
5 equator			E the light from the sun during the day
6 imaginary			F leaning to one side

+ Pick one word. Use it in a sentence.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

1 Day and Night Are Equal

● Shorter passage

1. How many times a year are day and night almost equal?

○ a. once ○ b. twice ○ c. four times

2. What is this day called? Write the answer.

_____

_____

3. What does the word equinox mean?

○ a. hot summer ○ b. long day ○ c. equal night

4. One equinox is in March. What month is the other one in? Write the answer.

_____

_____

5. What happens after the March equinox?

○ a. The days get longer. ○ b. The days get shorter. ○ c. The sun stops shining.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

2 Why We Have Seasons

■ Longer passage

1. What does Earth do as it travels around the sun?

○ a. It spins. ○ b. It stops. ○ c. It melts.

2. How long does one trip around the sun take? Write the answer.

_____

_____

3. What is the reason we have seasons?

○ a. the wind ○ b. Earth's tilt ○ c. the moon

4. What is the equator? Write the answer.

_____

_____

5. When it is spring in the northern half of Earth, what season is it in the southern half?

○ a. summer ○ b. winter ○ c. fall

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Winter or spring? Write W or S.

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring

W = winter S = spring

#	What it says	W or S
1	Buds and new leaves start to grow. 	
2	Snow and ice cover the ground in many places. 	
3	Some animals wake up and come out. 	
4	Many trees have bare branches.	
5	Day and night are almost the same length at the start of the season. 	
6	The northern half of Earth leans away from the sun. 	
7	Snow melts and spring rain falls. 	
8	Some animals sleep through the cold months. 	

+ Pick one. Tell how you know it is winter or spring.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Passages 1-2

Accept any answer that says the same thing, spoken or written. "Proof sentence" is the number of the sentence on the passage page that holds the answer.

Passage 1: Day and Night Are Equal (pages 6-7)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	b. twice	1
2	Short answer	An equinox	2
3	Multiple choice	c. equal night	3
4	Short answer	September	6
5	Multiple choice	a. The days get longer.	8
+	Highlight	In the northern half of Earth, the March equinox is the first day of spring.	7

Passage 2: Why We Have Seasons (pages 8-9)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	a. It spins.	1
2	Short answer	About a year	2
3	Multiple choice	b. Earth's tilt	4
4	Short answer	An imaginary line around the middle of Earth	7
5	Multiple choice	c. fall	10
+	Highlight	This tilt is the reason we have seasons.	4

PREVIEW

Reading Tracker

Write the date, then 1 for each question answered right (0 if not yet), then the total of 5. Write 1 under "Proof found" if the child highlighted the right sentence. A blank row means not tried yet, never wrong. The empty rows are for reading a passage again.

Student _____ Teacher _____ School year _____

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 Day and Night Are Equal									
2 Why We Have Seasons									

PREVIEW

What I notice

_____

_____

_____

_____

Next step

_____

_____

_____

_____

Owen's Tracker (Invented Student)

Owen R. is an invented student; nothing on this page describes a real child. The blank tracker is on page 16.

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 Day and Night Are Equal	3/1	1	0	1	1	1	4	1	–
2 Why We Have Seasons	3/2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	Read it aloud first
1 Day and Night Are Equal	3/8	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	Read it again
2 Why We Have Seasons	3/9	1	1	0	1	1	4	1	Read it again
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
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–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

PREVIEW

How to read it

Owen R. has read the 2 passages **4 times in all**, each one twice. Points are the 1s in a row: **15 of 20** possible, or **75.0 percent**. Owen found the proof sentence on **3 of 4** readings. Every number is a sum of the table.

The family note this tracker would produce

"This week Owen read the equinox passages 4 times and answered 15 of 20 questions right. At home, please read the family page together and ask where in the text the answer is."

Reading at Home

Send this page home with a child, or hand it to a family at a conference.

Student _____ Week of _____

How to help at home, in three steps

- Read the text below together, pointing to each word.
- Let your child read it again alone. Help with a word by saying the sounds slowly, then the word.
- Ask the questions out loud. If the answer is not clear, find the sentence together. Stop while it is still going well.

A text to practice: Day and Night Are Equal

Twice a year, day and night are almost the same length. This day is called an equinox. The word equinox comes from Latin words that mean equal night. On the equinox, there are about twelve hours of daylight and about twelve hours of night. One equinox is in March. The other is in September. In the northern half of Earth, the March equinox is the first day of spring. After that, the days get longer for a few months.

Try saying

- "What does equinox mean? Put your finger on the sentence that tells you."
- "What happens after the March equinox? Where does it say that?"
- "Look outside. What tells you which season it is?"

Note from the teacher

Note from home

PREVIEW

Binder Cover and Spine

The cover and spine label for the folder that holds the student's passages.

SPRING EQUINOX READING PASSAGES AND ACTIVITIES

Goodbye winter, hello spring

Day and Night Are Equal

Why We Have Seasons

Student name _____

Teacher _____

School year _____

Spring Equinox Passages

PREVIEW

Print the cover on card stock or paper and slide it into the binder front; fold the spine label around the edge.