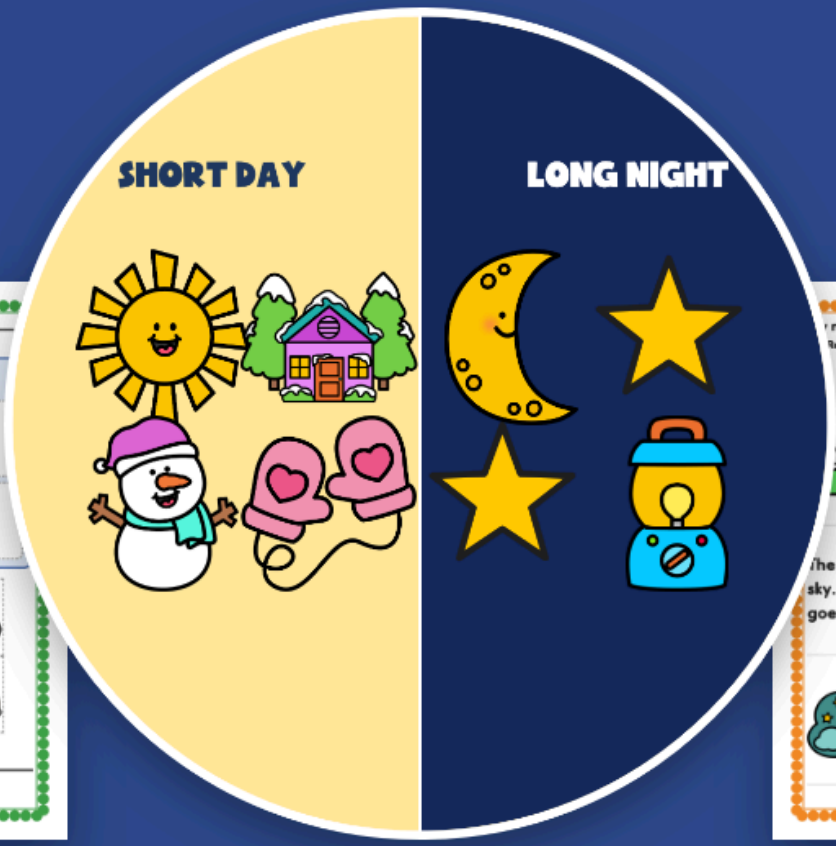
WINTER SOLSTICE

Reading, Sort, Day and Night Craft

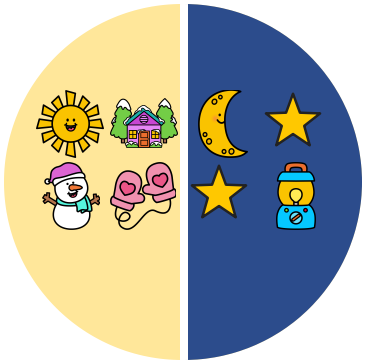






K-3 17 PAGES

Winter Solstice Activities: Start Here



What's inside

- **Read and check**: The Shortest Day (page 3) and check your reading (page 4)
- **Words**: 6 vocabulary cards (page 5) and trace-and-write (page 6)
- **Day or night sort** (page 7): 8 pictures to cut and glue on a day mat or a night mat
- **Day and Night Circle craft** (pages 8-9): 8 pieces to color, cut and glue, then two sentences written inside the circle
- **The shortest day in order** (page 10); **compare** a winter solstice day with a day in June (page 14)
- **Writing at three levels** (pages 11-13); family letter (15); data page with the answer key (16); credits (17)

The three writing levels

- **Level 1, trace and fill in (page 11).** Three sentences about the shortest day. The child traces the printed words and writes the missing word from the word bank.
- **Level 2, picture boxes and lines (page 12).** Three boxes to draw the short day, the long night and a light, each with a sentence starter and writing lines.
- **Level 3, free writing (page 13).** The starter "On the longest night I..." is printed; the child draws and writes in their own words.

Five days, one activity a day

- **Day 1 — Read.** Read The Shortest Day aloud (page 3), then the child reads it and circles the answers (page 4).
- **Day 2 — Words and sort.** Cut the 6 word cards (page 5), trace the words (page 6), then sort day and night pictures (page 7).
- **Day 3 — Circle.** Color and cut the pieces (page 8). Glue each on its faint twin (page 9).
- **Day 4 — Order and compare.** Glue the day in order (page 10) and compare it with a day in June (page 14).
- **Day 5 — Write.** Give each child the writing level that fits (pages 11-13). Read the writing aloud to a partner.

The facts on the pages (for the adult)

These pages teach the science fact only, not a holiday or a tradition. The winter solstice is the shortest day and the longest night of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere it falls on December 21 or 22, and the pages say "about December 21." The sun stays low in the sky; after this day the days slowly get longer. South of the equator the shortest day comes in June. Hours of daylight depend on where you live, so the pages give none. Check a calendar for this year's date.

Making it easier or harder

- Easier: read the page aloud together, a partner holds the glue stick, or the child writes only the first Level 1 sentence.
- Harder: write all three Level 1 sentences with no word bank, then a second sentence on the back of Level 3.

Prep

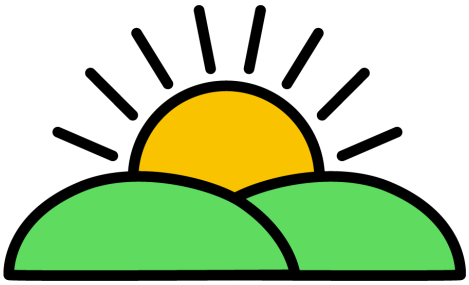
Print on paper; card stock suits the circle pieces. You need scissors, glue sticks and crayons. Each cutting page is a grid so every cut is one straight line. Answer key: page 16.

PREVIEW

My name _____

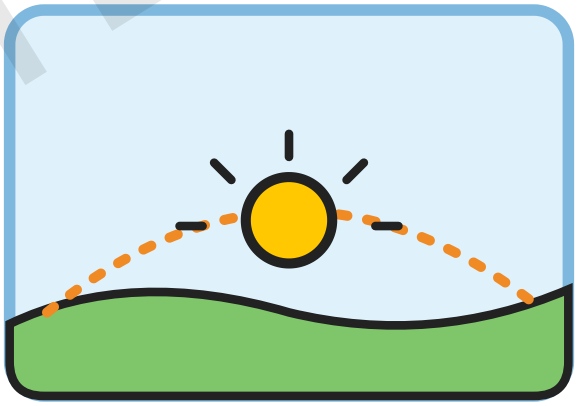
Read. Look at the pictures.

THE SHORTEST DAY



The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it is about December 21.

The sun stays low in the sky. It comes up late and goes down early.





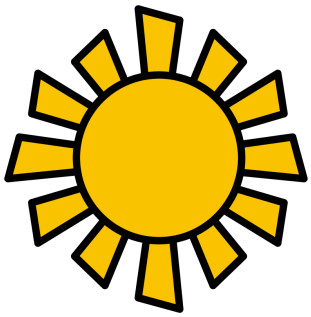
It is also the longest night. After this day, the days slowly get longer.

PREVIEW

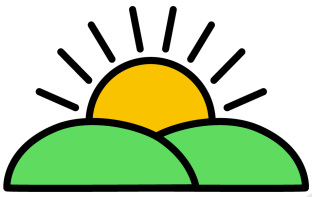
Cut out the word cards.



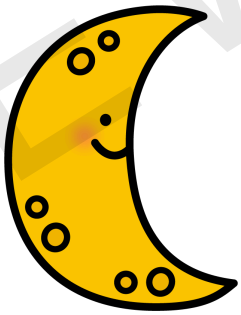
night



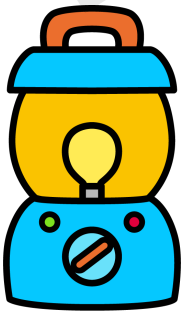
sun



solstice



moon



lantern



day

PREVIEW

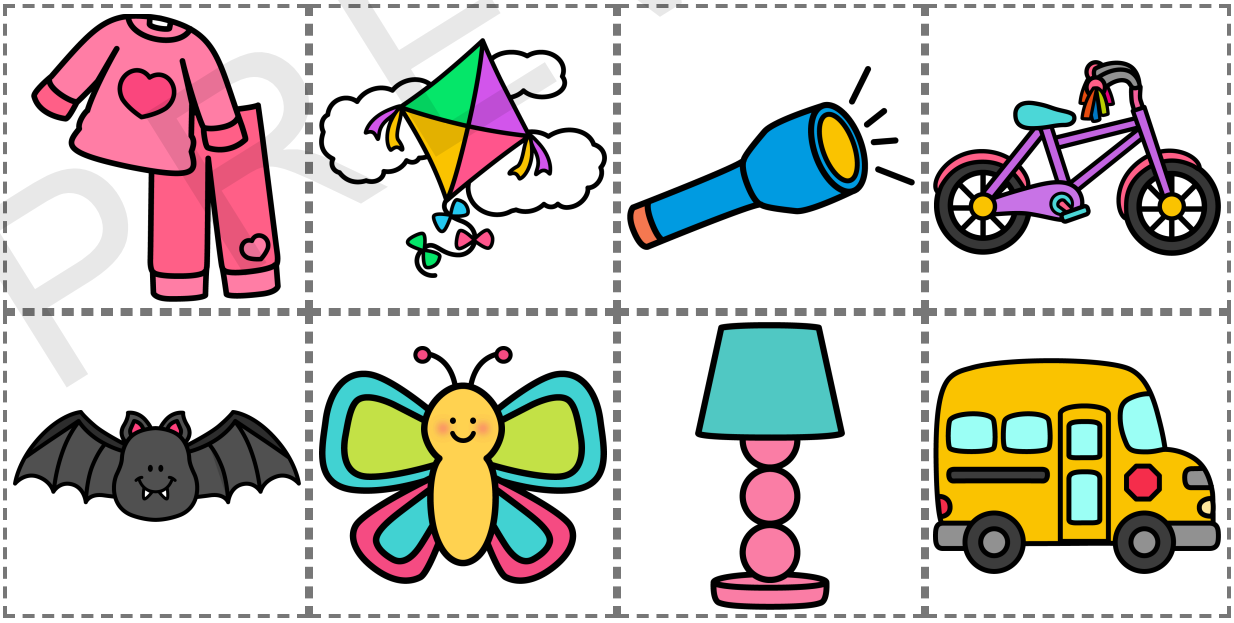
Say each word. Keep the cards for the circle.

My name _____

Cut out the pictures. Glue each one on day or night.

DAY

NIGHT



In the day I see _____

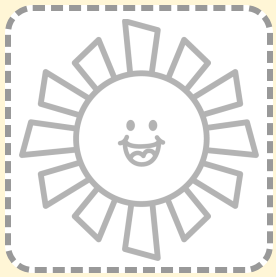
At night I see _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Glue the pieces. Write.

SHORT DAY





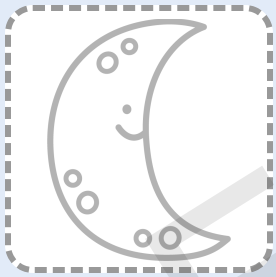




The day is _____

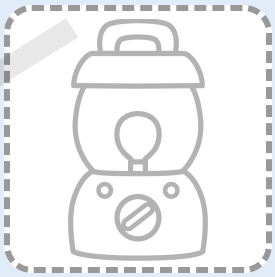
_____

LONG NIGHT









The night is _____

_____

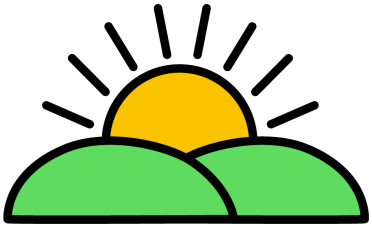
Word bank: short long

My circle shows _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Trace the words. Write the missing word.

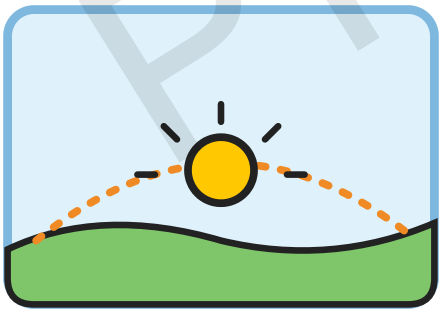


The winter solstice is the

shortest



It is the longest



The sun is

Word bank **day** **night** **low**

PREVIEW

Preview : Bright Path Sped

My name _____

Draw. Write about the longest night.

ON THE LONGEST NIGHT I...

PREVIEW

Ideas: dark | moon | stars | light

Our Winter Solstice Learning



Date: _____

Dear family of _____,

This week we learned about the winter solstice: the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

We read a short page, sorted day and night pictures, built a Day and Night Circle, put the shortest day in order and wrote about it. We learned that the sun stays low and that after this day the days slowly get longer. Your child's circle is coming home this week.

Try it at home

Talk about today. Then fill in what you noticed together. A child can draw or an adult can write the words.

TONIGHT IT GOT DARK AT _____

THE MOON LOOKED _____

A LIGHT WE TURNED ON WAS _____

Talk about it

- At dinner: "Was it light or dark when we ate? Was it the same in the summer?"
- At bedtime: "What lights do we use when it is dark?"
- On the way home: "Where is the sun now, high or low?"

Draw the night sky and send it back to school.

From _____ Questions? _____

PREVIEW