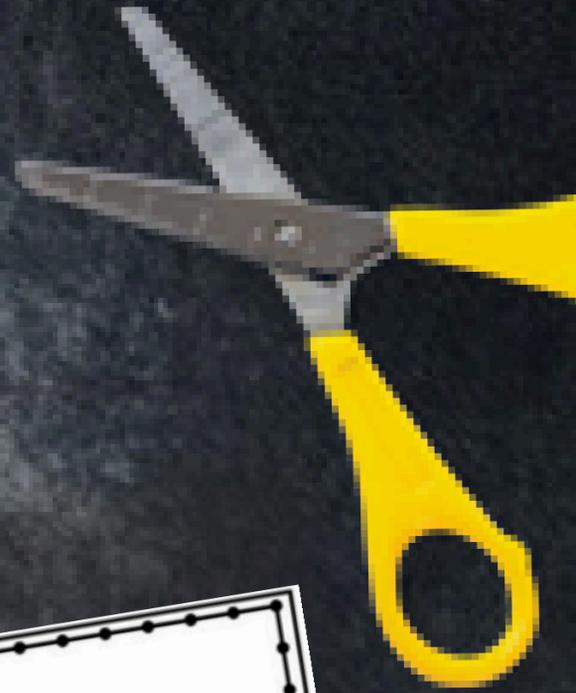


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Earth's Axis

What is the Earth's axis? What is unique about it? How does it affect the Earth's rotation around the sun?

The diagram illustrates Earth's orbit around the sun. The sun is represented by a small circle in the center. Earth is shown at four positions along an elliptical orbit, each with its axis tilted at an angle. The positions are labeled: Summer Solstice (top left), Vernal Equinox (top), Autumnal Equinox (bottom), and Winter Solstice (right). Each Earth globe shows the continents and the tilted axis.

Explain the diagram above. What do each of these stages of the Earth's rotation mean? How do they affect Earth's seasons? What role does the tilt in Earth's axis play?

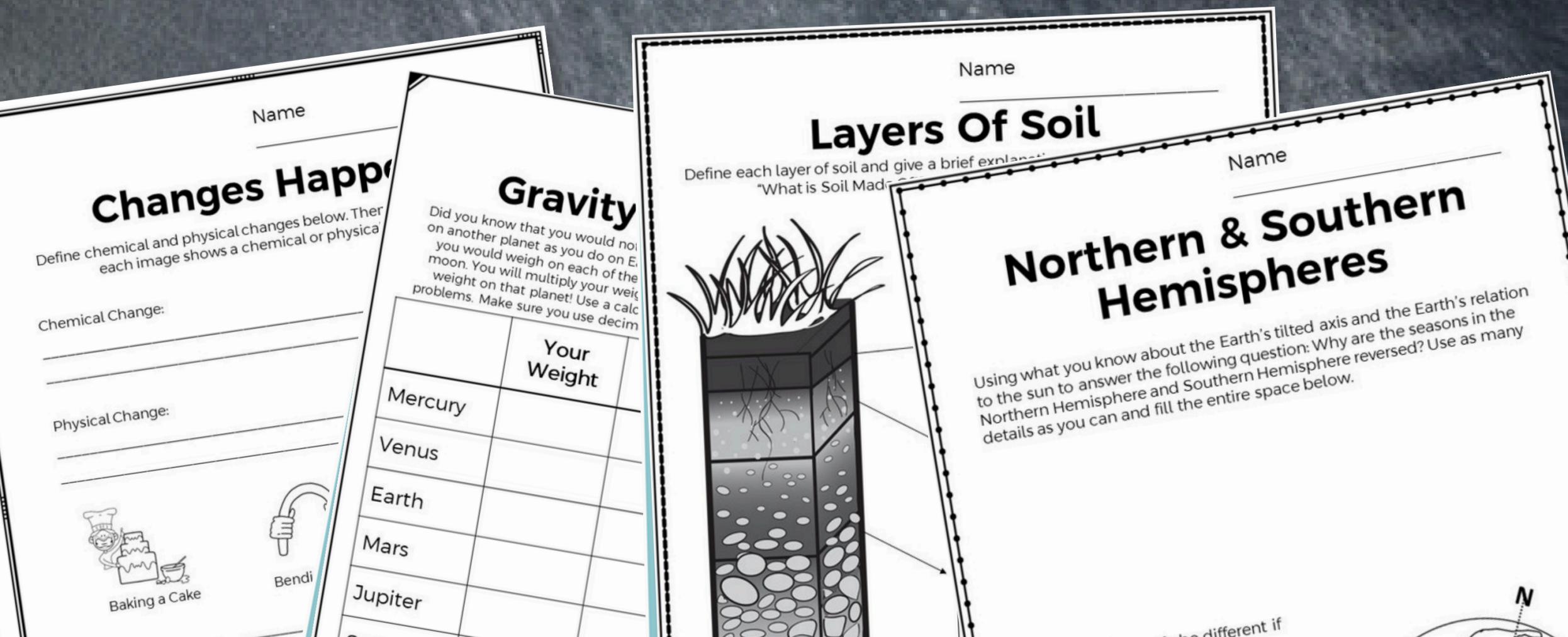
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