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Introduction

Summer, autumn, winter and spring bring different experiences and celebrations. *Theme of the Seasons* provides cross-curricular activities for students which highlight the special features of each season. The reproducible activities for students also develop and extend children's basic literacy and numeracy skills.

The open worksheets enable teachers to create activities which are suited to their own classroom needs. Teachers simply fill in each open worksheet with a specific skill and add directions. Example activities include writing plurals (adding -s, -es, -ies), synonyms, antonyms and homonyms; as well as abbreviations, contractions and compound words. It is recommended that teachers first photocopy the open worksheet, fill in the details, then photocopy the activity for classroom use. In this way the master copy can be reused.

Many pages, however, can be used in a number of ways. Here are a few:

- **Contracts** — Help students set short- or long-term goals such as keeping a clean desk, reading extra books or improving behavior.
- **Awards** — Show students you appreciate them by giving awards for good attitude, helping being considerate or scholastic achievement. Students can give them to each other, their teacher or the principal!
- **Invitations** — Invite parents, grandparents, friends or another class to a classroom, school or sports event.
- **Just to Let You Know** — Inform parents or students about special events, important school dates or homework.
- **Things to Do This Week** — Use for schoolwork, homework or personal time planning.
- **Thanks!** — Show appreciation to parents, students, other teachers, secretaries, etc.
- **Spelling Words** — Fill in with spelling words, duplicate and give to students; have students copy words onto sheets; students can alphabetize spelling words, divide them into syllables; practise handwriting.

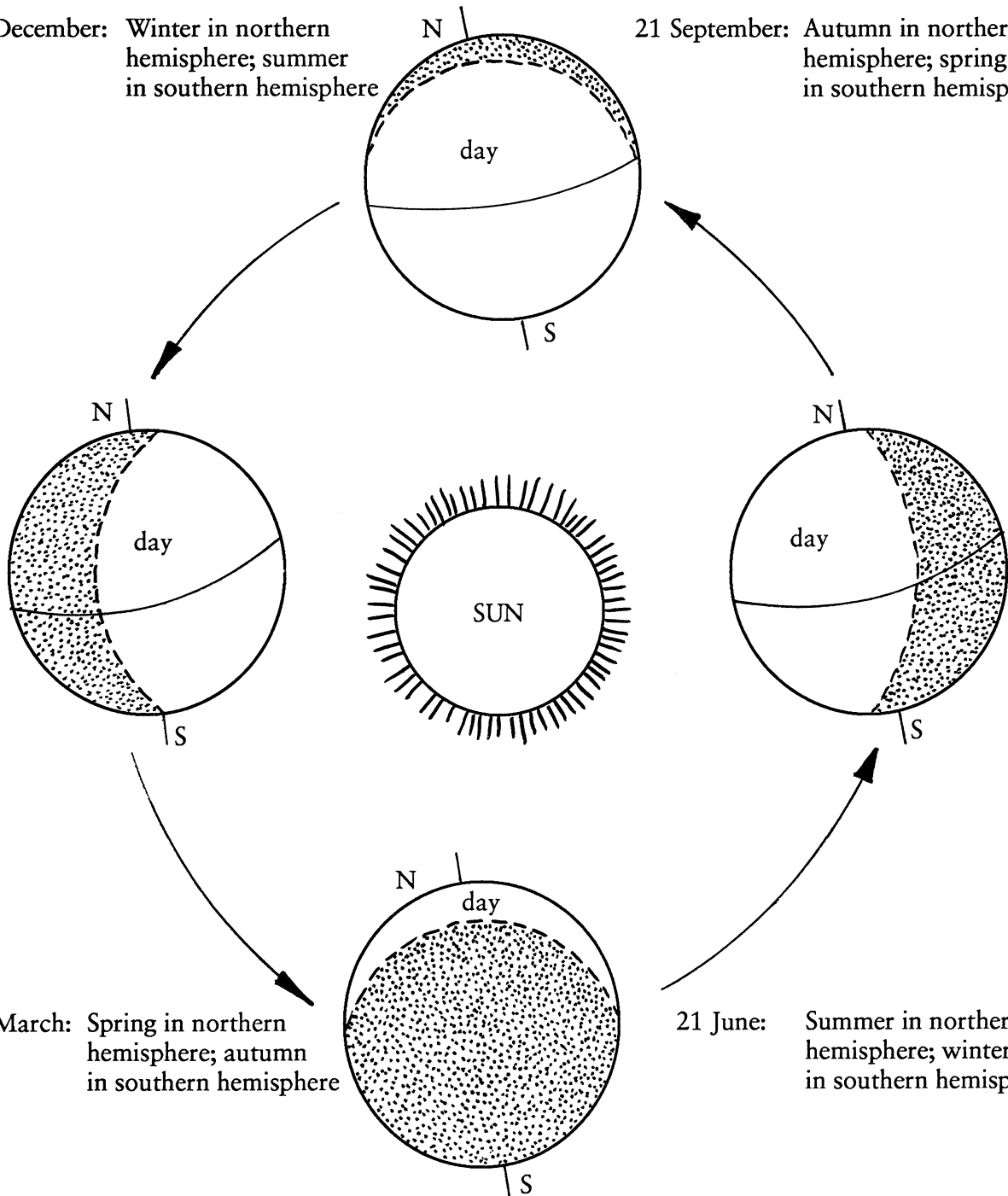
These activities can be enjoyed by the whole class or by individual students in the classroom, in learning centres or for homework assignments.

Seasons and Weather

Seasons occur because of the way the earth travels around the sun. Sometimes the northern hemisphere is pointed towards the sun, sometimes the southern hemisphere is pointed towards the sun. The part of the earth that receives the most sunlight experiences summer, and the part of the earth that receives the least sunlight experiences winter.

21 December: Winter in northern hemisphere; summer in southern hemisphere

21 September: Autumn in northern hemisphere; spring in southern hemisphere



21 March: Spring in northern hemisphere; autumn in southern hemisphere

21 June: Summer in northern hemisphere; winter in southern hemisphere

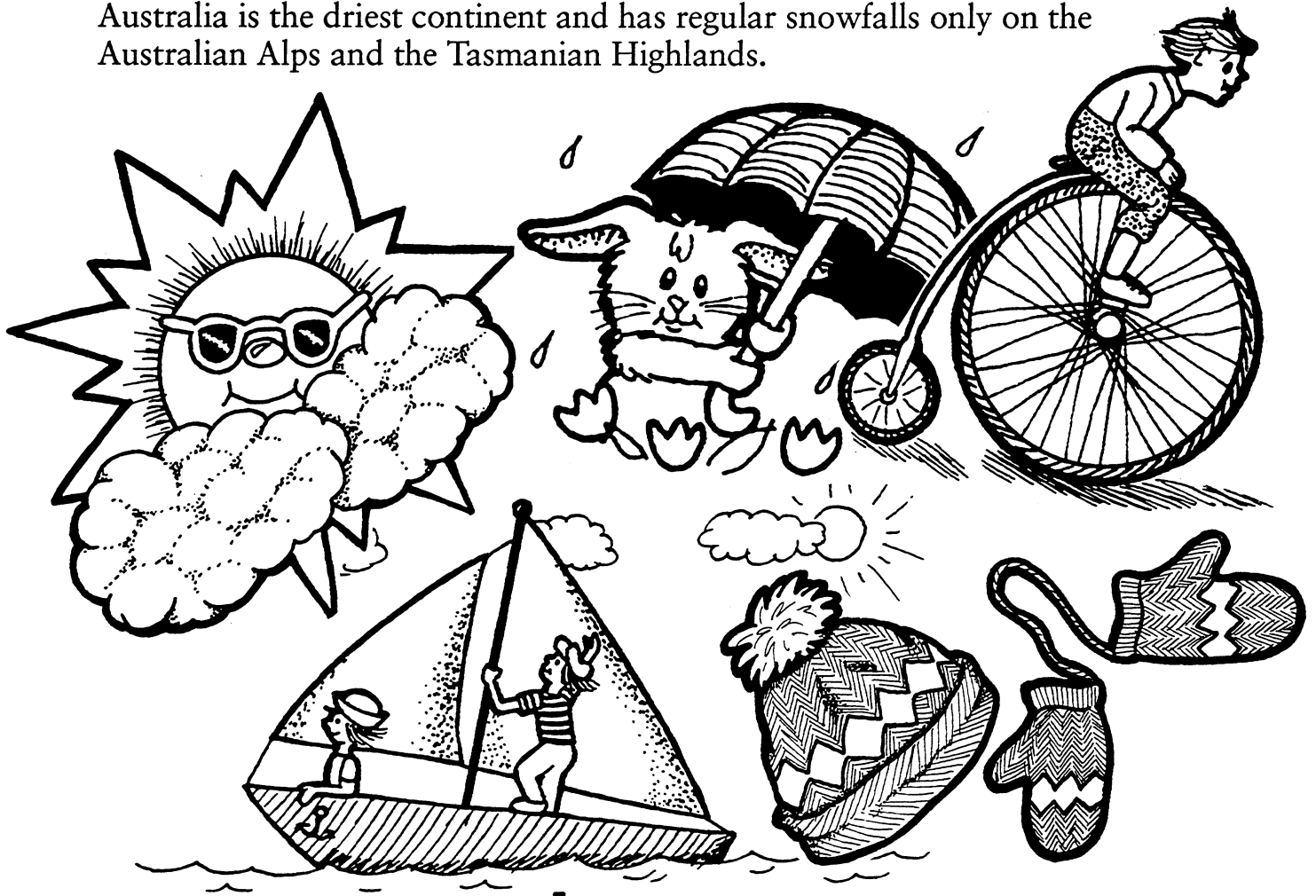
The Four Seasons

Most continents experience four different seasons each year: summer, autumn, winter and spring. During each season we experience changes in the weather and the temperature.

The changes in the season affect our activities, our choice of clothing, the fruit and vegetables we eat, and when we have holidays.

When it is summer in the southern hemisphere it is winter in the northern hemisphere. Therefore, Australians are always experiencing opposite seasons to the British, Europeans and Americans.

Australia is the driest continent and has regular snowfalls only on the Australian Alps and the Tasmanian Highlands.



In Australia, summer begins on the 1st of December and lasts until the end of February; autumn begins on the 1st of March and lasts until the end of May; winter begins on the 1st of June and lasts until the end of August; and spring begins on the 1st of September and lasts until the end of November.

Summer

Summer officially starts in Australia on the 1st of December. This season is usually characterized by very warm weather and outdoor activities. People often travel during summer because of the clear, warm days and the many festival-style celebrations and entertainments. Summer solstice usually occurs on the 22nd of December — which is the longest day of the year.

The summer holidays are generally the longest holidays of the year. During this time people celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah (the Jewish Festival of Lights), New Year, Australia Day and the Chinese New Year.

Most of Australia's largest cities are on the coast; so for many Australians, summer is associated with the beach. Summer is a time of fun.

