

## The Longest and Shortest Days

By ReadWorks



When is the longest day of the year in the United States? It is around June 21. That is the first day of summer. It is called the summer solstice. Summer days are long. We have many hours of sunlight.

Why? Earth tilts as it travels around the sun. In the summer, the north half of Earth tilts toward the sun. The United States is in Earth's north half.

What is the shortest day of the year? It is around December 21. That is the winter solstice. It is the first day of winter. In the winter, Earth's north half tilts away from the sun.