Second Grade "Cycles in Nature- Seasonal Cycles" Assessment

1a. Circle the answer that lists the names of all four seasons.
- a. May, summer, August, winter
- b. winter, spring, summer, fall
- c. spring, summer, November, fall

1b. Circle the answer that lists the names of the seasons in proper order.
- a. October, autumn, winter, fall
- b. spring, summer, fall, winter
- c. winter, fall, summer, spring

1c. Write the names of the seasons in proper order:

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

2a. The complete cycle of the Earth going around the sun is called:
- a. rotation
- b. orbit
- c. spin

2b. The complete cycle of the Earth going around the sun is called its _____.

2c. What is the complete cycle that the Earth takes around the sun called? Please explain it in at least one sentence.

_____

_____

3a. How long does it take the Earth to make a complete trip around the sun?
- a. month
- b. year

3b. How long does it take the Earth to make a complete trip around the sun?
- a. day
- b. month
- c. year
- d. week

3c. How long does it take the Earth to make a complete trip around the sun?

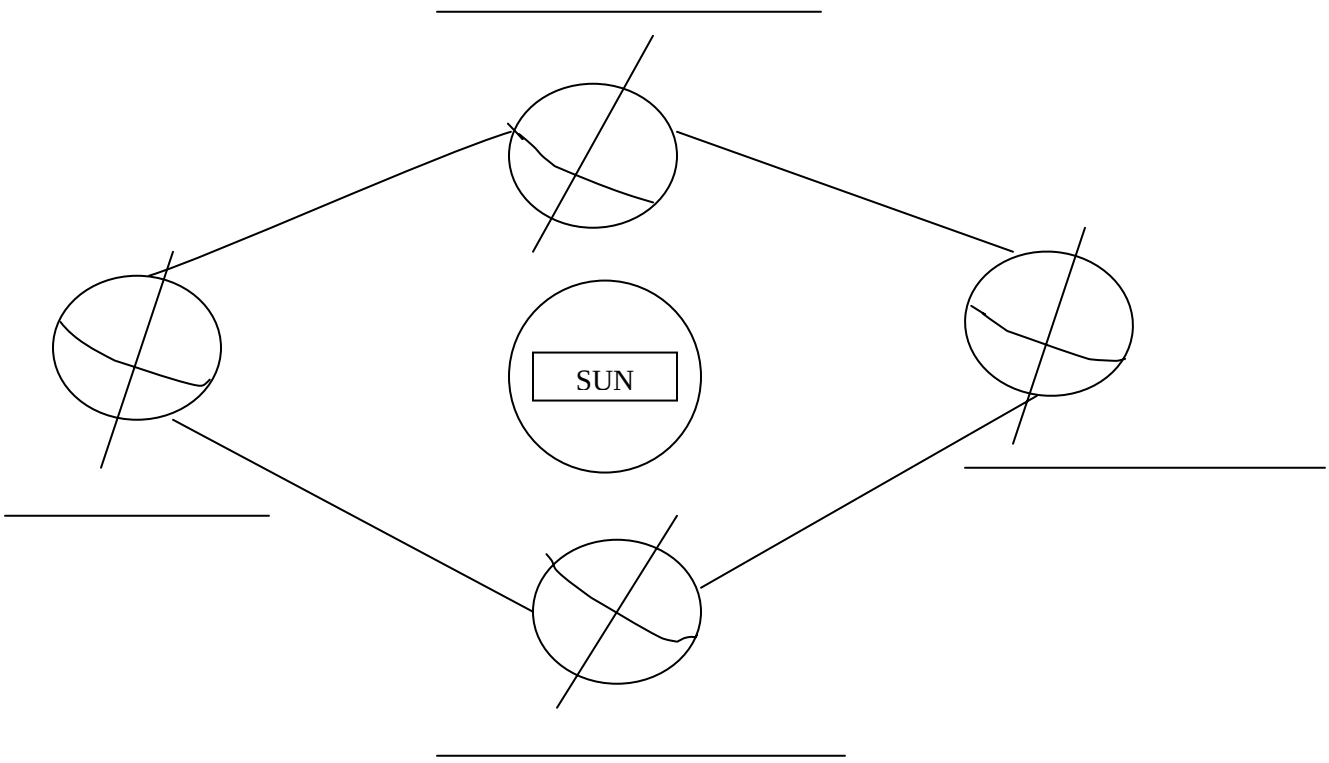
_____

4a. How many days make up a year?
   a. 365
   b. 500

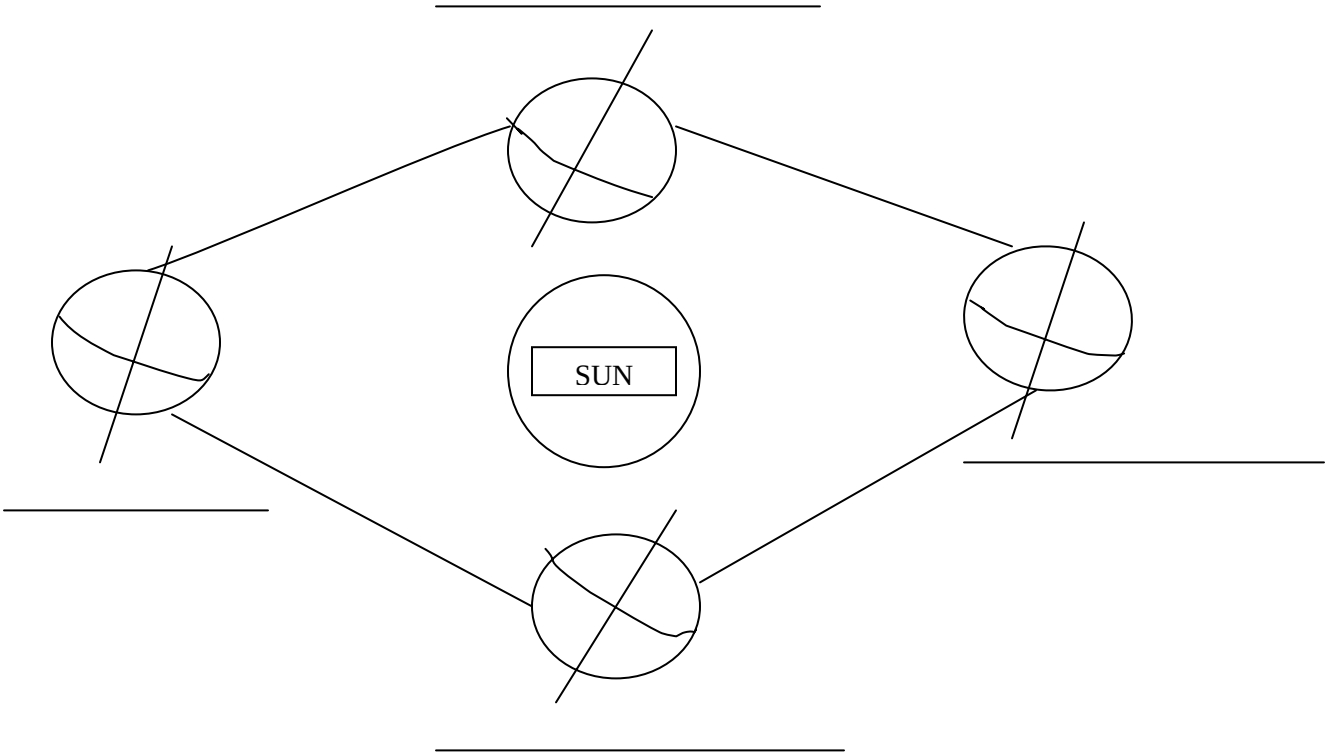
4b. How many days make up a year?
   a. 235
   b. 365
   c. 45
   d. 100

4c. How many days make up a year? _____ days

5a. Label the names of the seasons in the northern hemisphere on the drawing. (spring, summer, winter, fall)



5b. Label the names of the seasons in the northern hemisphere on the drawing. (A word bank is not given.)



5c. Draw the Earth's orbit around the Sun and label the seasons in the northern hemisphere. (The student will do all of the drawing and labeling.)

6a. In the springtime it is a time for plants to:

a. begin to sprout and grow

b loose their leaves

6b. In the springtime it is time for plants to:
   a. get more water
   b. begin to sprout and grow, and for sap to flow in the trees
   c. go to sleep

6c. In the springtime the plants begin to _____ and the sap in the trees begins to _____.

7a. The animals in the spring begin their life cycles by:
   a. laying eggs or having baby animals
   b. finding another animal like themselves

7b. The animals in the spring begin their life cycles by:
   a. laying eggs or having baby animals
   b. finding another animal like themselves
   c. look for another home

7c. In a sentence tell two ways how animals begin their life cycles.
_____
_____

8a. The summer is a season for:
   a. growth for animals and plants
   b. looking for food

8b. The summer is a season for:
   a. growth for animals and plants
   b. looking for food
   c. finding a home

8c. List two ways the summer season and the winter season are different.
_____
_____
_____

9a. In the fall, what is happening to the plants and animals?
   a. The birds are finding new homes and the plants are growing new leaves.
   b. The birds are beginning to migrate to warmer climates and the plants' fruits are ripening for harvest.

9b. In the fall, what is happening to the plants and animals?
   a. The birds are finding new homes and the plants are growing new leaves.
   b. The birds are looking for food for their babies and the plants have begun to grow large leaves.
   c. The birds are beginning to migrate to warmer climates and the plants' fruits are ripening for harvest.

9c. In the fall, what is happening to the plants and animals? Explain in a sentence.

_____
_____
_____

10a. In the winter, many animals go into
a. relaxation
b. hibernation

10b. In the winter, many animals go into
a. relaxation
b. hibernation
c. metamorphosis

10c. What do some animals, such as bears, chipmunks, or frogs, do in the winter to protect themselves from the elements? Explain your answer.

_____
_____
_____

11a. Why is it hotter in the summer months than in the winter months?
a. The Sun's rays are stronger because the earth is tilted toward the Sun.
b. The Sun is closer to the Earth.

11b. Why is it hotter in the summer months than in the winter months?
a. The Sun's rays are stronger because the earth is tilted toward the Sun.
b. The Sun is closer to the Earth.
c. The Sun has a hotter temperature in the summertime.

11c. Explain why it is hotter in the summer than in the winter.

_____
_____
_____

12a. In the fall, some animals are busy storing food for the winter because:
a. there will be no food available for the animals
b. the animals will be too busy playing in the snow

12b. In the fall, some animals are busy storing food for the winter because:
a. there will be no food available for the animals
b. the animals will be too busy playing in the snow
c. the animals will be looking for a place to have their babies

12c. In the fall, some animals are busy storing food because:

_____
_____

13a. Because the Earth is tilted, in the spring the Sun:
a. shines on the top half of the Earth as well as the bottom half of the Earth.
b. shines where everyone can feel the same amount of sunlight.

13b. Because the Earth is tilted, in the spring the Sun:
a. shines on the top half of the Earth as well as the bottom half of the Earth.
b. shines where everyone can feel the same amount of sunlight.
c. will not shine on the Earth.

13c. Explain in one or two sentences the position of the Earth in the fall and spring.
_____
_____
_____
_____

14a. Many types of _____ will lay their eggs in the fall and die.
a. bears
b. insects

14b. Many types of _____ will lay their eggs in the fall and die.
a. bears
b. insects
c. birds

14c. _____ will lay their eggs in the fall and die.

15a. The longest number of daylight hours occurs in which season?
a. fall
b. summer

15b. The longest number of daylight hours occurs in which season?
a. fall
b. summer
c. spring
d. winter

15c. The longest number of daylight hours occurs in _____.

16a. In _____ the temperature drops below freezing and snow falls?
a. winter
b. summer

16b. Snow falling and freezing temperatures are associated with what season?
_____

16c. What kinds of changes in the weather are associated with winter?

_____
_____
_____

17a. The shortest number of daylight hours occurs in what season?

a. spring
b. summer
c. winter

17b. The shortest number of daylight hours occurs in what season?

a. spring
b. summer
c. winter
d. fall

17c. The _____ is the season that has fewest number of daylight hours.

The following Colorado Model Content Standards are covered in this assessment by the questions indicated:

Questions 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 6a, 6b, 6c, 11a, 11b, 11c, 13a, 13b, 13c, 16a, 16b, 16c, 17a, 17b, 17c: Standard 4.4 Students know the structure of the solar system, composition and interactions of objects in the universe, and how space is explored- recognizing the characteristics of seasons

Questions 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9a, 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 10c, 12a, 12b, 12c, 14a, 14b, 14c: Standard 3.1 Students know and understand the characteristics of living things, the diversity of life, and how living things interact with each other and with their environment- describing the basic needs *(for example, food, water, air, shelter, space)* of an organism

Answer Key

1a. b. winter, spring, summer, fall
1b. b. winter, spring, summer, fall
1c. 1. spring
2. summer
3. fall
4. winter

2a. b. orbit
2b. orbit
2c. Acceptable answers could include:
-It takes 365 days for the earth to go completely around the sun, and this is called its orbit.

3a. b. year
3b. c. year
3c. a year

4a. a. 365
4b. b. 365
4c. 365

5a. top position- spring, right position-winter, bottom position-fall, left position-summer
5b. top position- spring, right position-winter, bottom position-fall, left position-summer
5c. The students will draw a diagram similar to 5a. and 5b. and label the same answers.

6a. a. begin to sprout and grow
6b. b. begin to sprout and grow, and for sap to flow in trees
6c. grow, flow

7a. a. laying eggs or having baby animals
7b. a. laying eggs or having baby animals
7c. Acceptable answers could include:
-Animals begin their life cycles by laying eggs or they will have baby animals.

8a. a. growth for animals and plants
8b. a. growth for animals and plants
8c. Acceptable answers could include:
-In the summer the plants and animals will grow.
-Plants will flower and bloom to make fruit.
-In the winter, the animals get ready to sleep for the winter.
-They usually have a hard time finding food.
-An answer can include any other comparisons that show the differences in the seasons.

9a. b. The birds are beginning to migrate to warmer climates, and the plants' fruits are ripening for harvest.
9b. c. The birds are beginning to migrate to warmer climates, and the plants' fruits are ripening for harvest.
9c. The student can include any comparisons such as in the above answers. Also, the answer can include animals storing food for the winter and leaves falling off of the trees.

10a. b. hibernation
10b. b. hibernation
10c. Acceptable answers could include:
-Animals go into hibernation or find a home that is warm for the winter.
-They eat the food that they have stored for the winter.

11a. a. The Sun's rays are stronger because the Earth is tilted toward the sun.
11b. a. The Sun's rays are stronger because the Earth is tilted toward the sun.
11c. Acceptable answers could include:
-In the summer the Sun is tilted toward the sun.
-The Sun shines more on the northern hemisphere, so it is hotter.

12a. a. there will be no food available for the animals
12b. a. there will be no food available for the animals
12c. Acceptable answers could include:
-In the winter there will not be food available for animals because the plants are in dormancy.

13a. a. shines on the top half of the Earth as well as the bottom half of the Earth.
13b. a. shines on the top half of the Earth as well as the bottom half of the Earth.
13c. Acceptable answers could include:
-The Earth is tilted in the same way in the spring and fall.
-There is the same amount of Sun shining in both hemispheres.

14a. b. insects
14b. b. insects
14c. Insects

15a. b. summer
15b. b. summer
15c. summer

16a. a. winter
16b. winter
16c. Acceptable answers could include:
-In the winter we will have snow because the temperature will usually drop below freezing.
-Sleet can also occur because of the cold temperatures.

17a. c. winter
17b. c. winter
17c. winter