

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will understand what the spring equinox is and why it is an important event in the sky!

Materials and Prep

- Pen and paper
- Coloring materials
- No prior knowledge required!

Activities

- **Sun and Shadow Experiment:** Go outside and trace your shadow at different times of the day. Notice how the shadow changes length. Discuss why this happens.
- **Color the Earth:** Draw the Earth on a piece of paper and color in the areas that are experiencing day and night during the spring equinox. Talk about why this happens.
- **Story Time:** Read a fun story about the changing seasons and talk about how the spring equinox marks the beginning of spring.

Talking Points

- **What is the spring equinox?**
"The spring equinox is a special day when day and night are almost equal in length. It marks the beginning of spring!"
- **Why does day and night have equal length on the spring equinox?**
"On the spring equinox, the Earth's axis is not tilted towards or away from the sun, so the sun shines equally on the northern and southern hemispheres."
- **What happens after the spring equinox?**
"After the spring equinox, the days start getting longer and the nights shorter as we head towards summer!"