Q: Why do we have seasons?

A: 1. Revolution = Earth's yearly orbit around the sun

- Elliptical orbit
- Closest to sun = January 3
- Farthest from sun = July 4

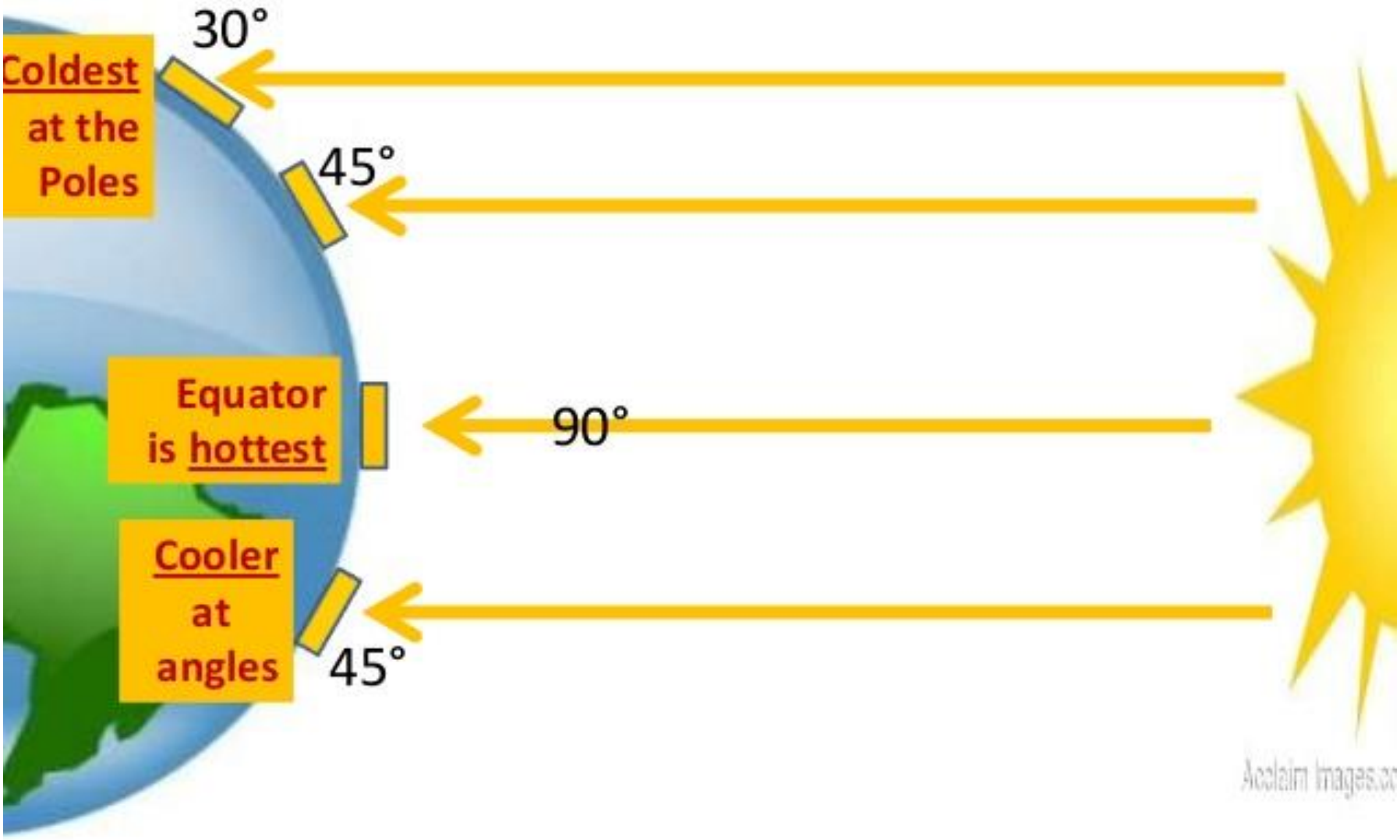
2. Tilted Axis = 23.5°

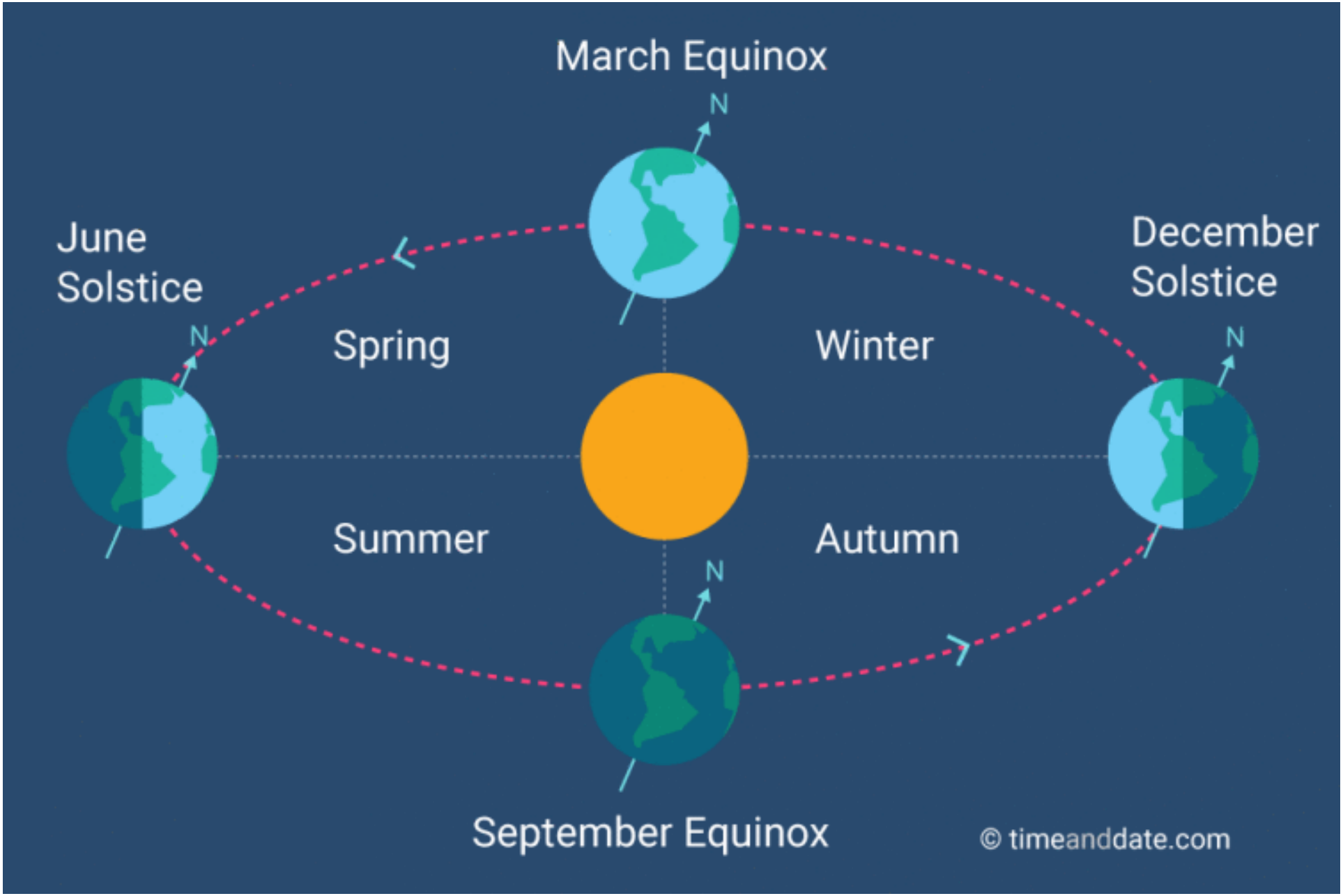
- this tilt causes seasons
- tilted away from the sun = shorter days
- tilted toward the sun = longer days (I.e. "Land of the Midnight Sun")

3. Radiation

- Sun's rays hit Earth at different angles
- Solstice = day when the Sun reaches its greatest distance north or south of the equator
  - Winter Solstice – First Day of Winter – December 21st
  - Summer Solstice – First Day of Summer – June 21st
  - Opposite in the Southern Hemisphere
- Equinox = number of daylight/ nighttime hours is nearly equal all over the world
  - Fall Equinox – First Day of Fall – September 22nd
  - Spring Equinox – First Day of Spring – March 21st

Curved Earth = Sun rays hit Earth at angles




March Equinox
N
June
Solstice
December
Solstice
N
Spring
Winter
N
Summer
Autumn
N
September Equinox
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