**Spring Equinox Handout**

**Directions:**

Please answer the following questions and feel free to work with a partner. Use a laptop or cell phone. Please complete before the start of next class and use your class time wisely!!

1. What day is spring equinox? (Hint: its today’s date!)
2. What happens on spring and fall equinox that doesn’t occur on any other day of the year?
3. By what other name is the spring equinox known as?
4. What two Latin words does “equinox” come from and what does it mean?
5. Along with spring equinox, there are three other days that signify the start of astronomical seasons. They are summer solstice, winter solstice and fall equinox. What dates do these important days occur on in 2023?

Spring Equinox: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_March 20th ­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Summer Solstice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fall Equinox: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Winter Solstice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the name of the shortest day of the year (lowest amount of daylight)?
2. What is the name of the longest day of the year (highest amount of daylight)?
3. During the spring and fall equinox, the amount of daylight (approximately 12 hours) is the same everywhere in the world. However, the amount of daylight during the summer and winter solstice varies on your location.

Please find the amount of daylight on June 21, 2023 and December 21, 2023 for the following locations using the website <https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| City/town | daylight on June 21, 2023 | daylight on December 21 2023 |
| Melbourne, Australia |  |  |
| Iqaluit, Canada |  |  |
| Caracas, Venezuela |  |  |
| Winnipeg, Canada |  |  |
| Punta Arenas, Chile |  |  |
| Nairobi, Kenya |  |  |
| London, England |  |  |

1. Which city/town has the most daylight on June 21, 2023? Why?
2. Which city/town has the least amount of daylight on the December 21, 2023? Why?
3. Look up what day the summer solstice is for Winnipeg and Melbourne. Do they occur on the same day? Why or why not?
4. In the short video we watched, it was mentioned that both the spring and fall equinox had great importance for several cultures. Please pick a culture and do some further research on the importance of equinox. Please list 3 interesting facts about equinox and the culture of your choice.

1)

2)

3)

**Video links from class:**

Equinoxes: National Geographic

<https://www.google.com/search?q=spring+equinox+video&oq=spring+equinox+video&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i60l3.7801j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:828e4d4b,vid:kaG6PTVrFP4>

Equinox Sun at the South Pole

<https://vimeo.com/136274402>