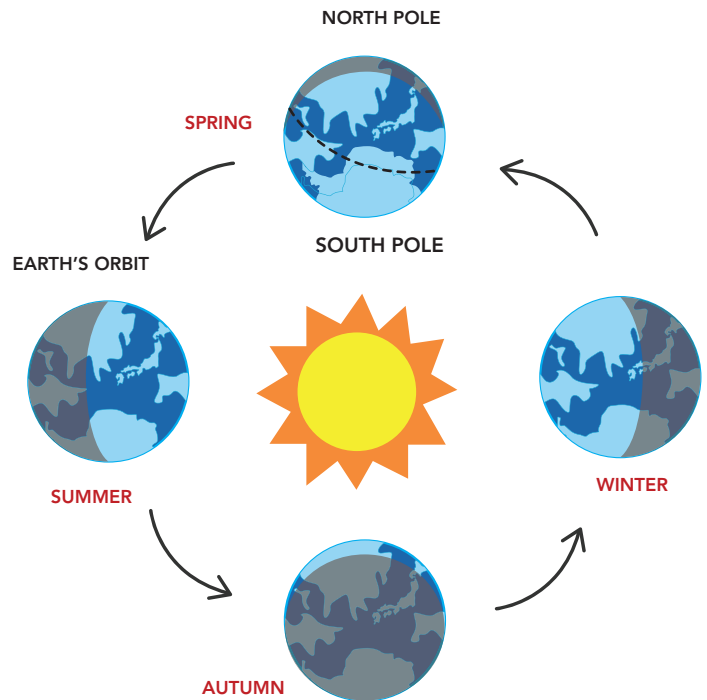


# Why is there a leap year?

The month of February usually has 28 days, but every four years it has 29. To understand this we have to understand what a year is.

One year is supposed to match the time it takes for the Earth to orbit the Sun. However, the match isn't perfect. Our year equals 365 days, but it takes Earth about 365 ¼ days to complete its orbit. That little fraction may seem insignificant, but every four years it adds up to a complete day. We give that extra day to February and call it leap year.



## QUESTION & ANSWER:

How long does it take the Earth to complete its orbit?

.....

How often does a leap year occur?

.....

What is a person born on February 29<sup>th</sup> called?

.....

A leap year consists of how many days?

.....

Why is it called leap year when we're actually adding a day? It seems like it might make more sense to call it something like plus day or add day. We call it leap year because the addition of that one day effectively leaps the rest of that year forward by 24 hours.

A “leap year baby” is someone who is born on the last day of February in a leap year. Would a leap year baby age differently than everyone else?