Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Ch.1: *Cycles of the Sky – Seasons* Study Guide
Astronomy

Nerd Words:

1. Rotation Axis –

2. Equinox –

3. Vernal Equinox –

4. Autumnal Equinox –

5. Solstice –

6. Winter Solstice –

7. Summer Solstice –

Review:

1. What are two characteristics of Earth's orbit around the Sun that signify the effects we see here on the planet? Explain each.

2. What is the common misconception that explains why we have seasons here on Earth?

3. How do all four seasons relate to the distance from the Sun to Earth? Explain each.

4. What is our rotation axis tilt? What would be the effect of a more severe axis tilt? Less severe? Explain.

5. The axis is not perpendicular to the orbit around the Sun. What does that mean? Explain.

6. How does the angle of sunlight affect the start of the seasons? Explain the relationship.

7. State the four alignment dates and list the degree of sunlight for each in the northern hemisphere. How do they compare to the southern hemisphere? Equator? Explain.

8. If the planet rotates eastward, which direction does the Sun move in the sky? Explain.

9. What key characteristic of Earth is responsible for the Sun's movement through our view of the sky? Explain.

10. Which celestial guideline (even though invisible) is most important when tracking the Sun's pathway in our sky? Explain.

11. What is the difference between an equinox and a solstice?

12. Where is the Sun in our sky at each of the four alignment dates? Explain why for each.

13. Where will the Sun rise and set on each of the four alignment dates? Explain why for each.

14. Stonehenge is a popular landmark in Europe. Why was it built? Explain.