

# What causes day and night?

- Earth turns around its **axis**, an imaginary line that goes through its center. This motion is called **rotation**.
- Earth takes about 24 hours to rotate around its axis once.
- When a place on Earth faces the sun, it has daytime. When it faces away from the sun, it has night.



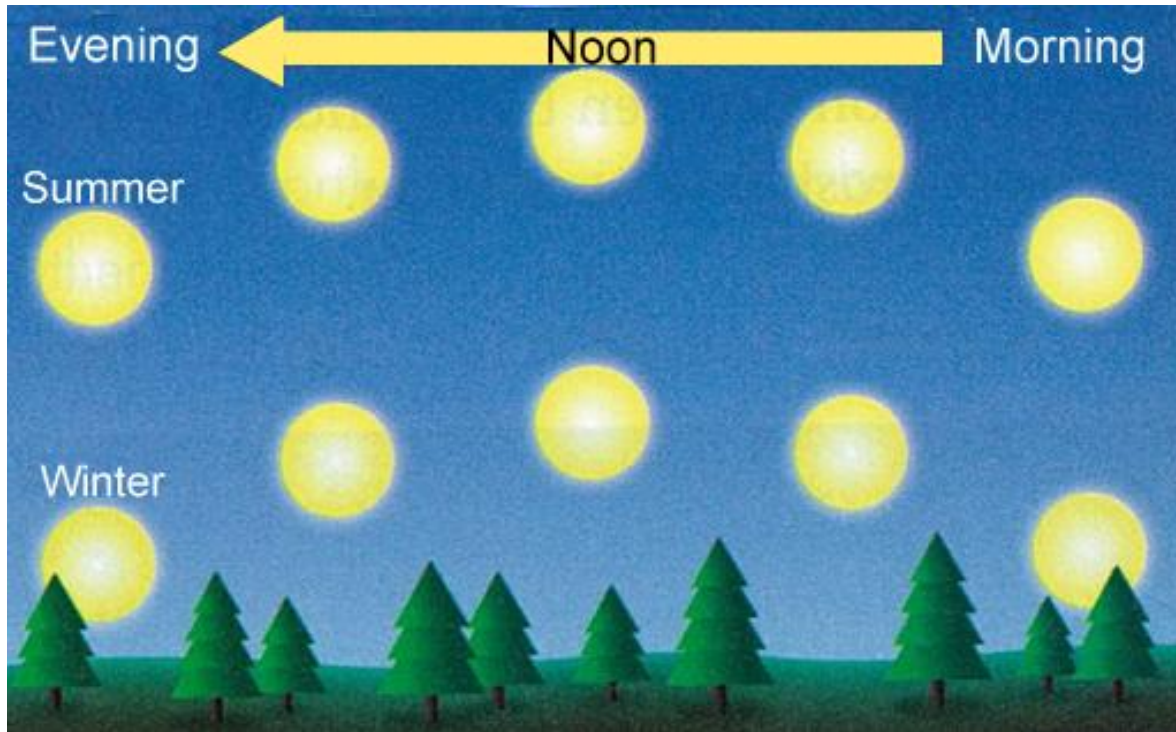
**1. Relate Cause and Effect** Explain how the motion of Earth causes day and night.

**(contd.)**



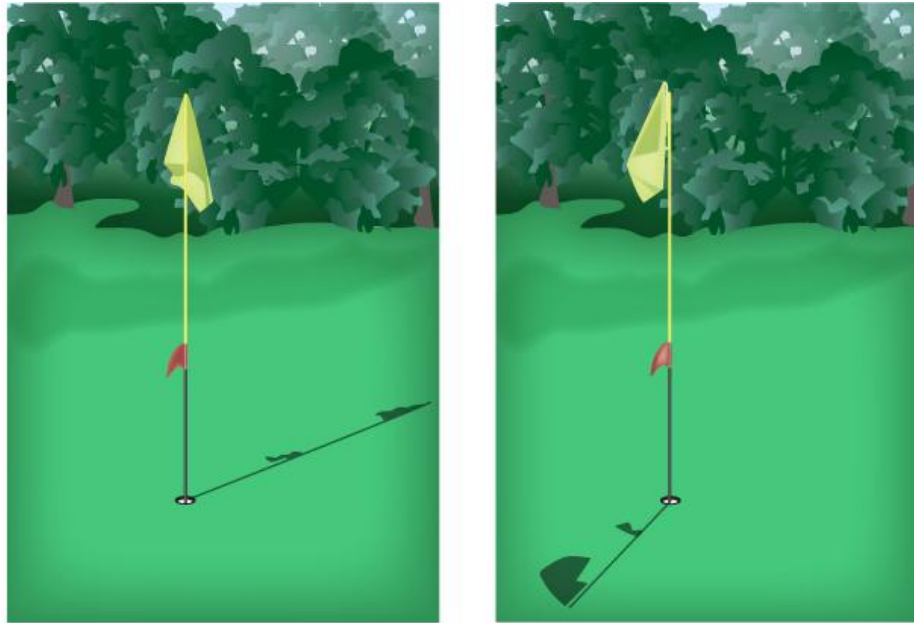
TEKS 5.8C: *Demonstrate that Earth rotates on its axis once approximately every 24 hours causing the day/night cycle and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.*

- Earth rotates from west to east.
- As Earth turns, the sun appears to move west across the sky.



***(contd.)***

- Shadows change position and size as Earth moves. The sun shines from different angles, changing the shape of the shadow.



**2. Explain** How could you use the view from a merry-go-round as a model to show why the sun appears to move?