

Spinning Day and Night

Goal	Understanding the rotation of the earth in relation to the sun; understanding day and night.
Age	4 upwards
Difficulty	Easy
Skills	Dialogue
Materials	A ball, a stick
Pre-requisites	Knowing the shape of the Earth, having an idea about day and night

Introduction

This activity is a fun dialogue with children. Elements of surprise and apparent contradictions stimulate their thinking.

Scenario of the dialogue

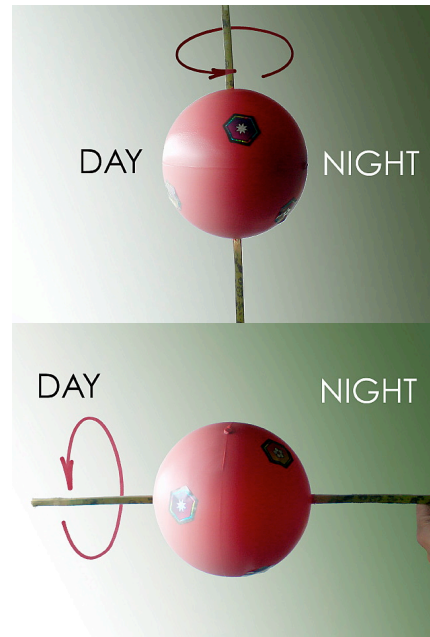
First, children are shown day and night by holding up the ball and the stick and using either a torch or daylight (e.g. through a window) for the sun.

Identify or mark a spot on the ball. Spin the stick slowly so that the mark goes from shadow to light, to shadow, to light, etc. until the children all seem to understand what we are talking about.

Point the stick horizontally towards the light source spin it slowly again.

Ask the children if there is still day and night. This often confuses children. The answer is still 'yes', but both day and night are permanent. Look at the mark being stuck in either eternal day or eternal night.

As children understand, they laugh.



Day and Night illustrated

Extension

This game can be part of a larger set of activities to explain the tilt of the rotation axis and the seasons. The main aspect of this activity is that it is an entertaining dialogue

Source: UNAWE India – AID India

