

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# SPRING AHEAD

**Directions:** What do you know about the first day of spring? Explore the Web site below. Then read each question on this page. Beneath each question are three possible answers. Make an X next to each correct answer.

**Web Resources:**

The First Day of Spring

<http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov/news/2000/news-vernalequinox.asp>



1. How many hours of daylight occur on the first day of spring?

\_\_\_\_\_ 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 8

\_\_\_\_\_ 12

2. What is the longest day of the year called?

\_\_\_\_\_ winter solstice

\_\_\_\_\_ summer equinox

\_\_\_\_\_ summer solstice

3. What does the word *solstice* mean?

\_\_\_\_\_ summer sun

\_\_\_\_\_ sunny days

\_\_\_\_\_ sun stands still

4. Which season begins on the vernal equinox?

\_\_\_\_\_ spring

\_\_\_\_\_ summer

\_\_\_\_\_ autumn

5. What causes the seasons to change?

\_\_\_\_\_ daylight savings time

\_\_\_\_\_ Earth's orbit

\_\_\_\_\_ the sun's orbit

**Something to Think About:** Why, do you think, are day and night the same length on the vernal equinox?

**Learn More:** Learn more about the sun and the seasons. Make your own sundial at <http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov/Earth/Sundials/SundialMake.asp>.