Name _____

Winter Break Pack: 5th grade

14 days · about 20 minutes a day · check off each day when it's done

Do one box a day, in order or in any order you like. Most days use a page in this pack; two days are for any book from your shelf or the library. On game day, pick any game for your grade on english1to5.com. Finish all 14 to earn the certificate on page 9.

Day 1 **Spelling words** Read and copy the winter words ☐	Day 2 **Word search** Find all the winter words ☐	Day 3 **Reading** Read the story or article ☐	Day 4 **Questions** Answer the reading questions ☐	Day 5 **Skill page** Do the practice page ☐	Day 6 **Library book** Read any book for 15 minutes ☐	Day 7 **Game day** Play an English game online ☐
Day 8 **Writing: plan** Plan your writing ☐	Day 9 **Writing: draft** Write your draft ☐	Day 10 **Writing: share** Fix it up and read it aloud ☐	Day 11 **Spelling test** A grown-up reads the words; you write them ☐	Day 12 **Reread** Read the story again, faster and smoother ☐	Day 13 **Library book** Read any book for 15 minutes ☐	Day 14 **Celebrate!** Finish the reading log and get your certificate ☐

For grown-ups: keep it short and fun. Ten focused minutes beat an hour of struggle. The answer key is on the last page.

Name _____

Winter Spelling Words

Read each word. Then write it on the line next to it. Cover it and write it again from memory.

solstice	**hemisphere**
equator	**orbit**
axis	**daylight**
tilted	**season**
astronomy	**celebrate**

Spelling test on Day 11: a grown-up reads each word aloud and you write it.

Name _____

Winter Word Search

Find each word. Words go across, down and diagonally. Check the box when you find it.

D	H	E	M	I	S	P	H	E	R	E	R
K	W	S	Y	M	U	A	N	N	F	S	A
D	C	G	K	N	F	S	Y	D	E	R	A
A	S	S	U	J	J	T	V	K	K	T	A
Y	J	O	K	E	A	R	O	C	C	I	X
L	W	L	D	Q	R	O	W	V	S	L	I
I	O	S	A	U	N	N	W	O	E	T	S
G	R	T	A	A	S	O	V	K	A	E	L
H	B	I	M	T	B	M	B	S	S	D	T
T	I	C	F	O	N	Y	G	R	O	T	R
W	T	E	Y	R	T	D	V	U	N	B	F
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	Y	I	S

☐ solstice ☐ hemisphere ☐ equator ☐ orbit ☐ axis ☐ daylight

☐ tilted ☐ season ☐ astronomy ☐ celebrate

Name _____

The Shortest Day of the Year

Your child reads on their own and answers with evidence from the text.

Around December 21 each year, people in the Northern Hemisphere have their shortest day and longest night. This day is called the winter solstice. In some northern places, the sun barely rises above the horizon before it sets again.

The solstice happens because Earth is tilted. Earth spins on an imaginary line called its axis, and that axis leans about 23.5 degrees. As Earth travels around the sun in its yearly orbit, the tilt stays pointed in the same direction in space.

In December, the northern half of Earth leans away from the sun. Sunlight hits it at a low angle and for fewer hours, so days are short and the weather is cold. At the very same time, the Southern Hemisphere leans toward the sun. In Australia and Argentina, the December solstice is the longest day of the year, and families celebrate summer at the beach.

After the winter solstice, the days in the north slowly get longer again. For thousands of years, people have marked this turning point. Ancient builders lined up stones and monuments with the solstice sunrise or sunset, and many cultures still celebrate the return of the light with festivals, candles and bonfires.

So the darkest day of the year is also a hopeful one: from here on, every day brings a little more light.

Name _____

Questions: The Shortest Day of the Year

Look back at the text to find your answers.

1. What causes the winter solstice? Use details from the text.

2. Why is the December solstice the longest day in Australia?

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 4?

4. Why does the author call the darkest day "a hopeful one"?

Name _____

Fix-it sentences

Each sentence has 2 or 3 mistakes. Look for commas, verb tenses, titles and confused words. Rewrite it correctly.

1. After dinner we read the book Winter Wonders.

2. Yes I have already went sledding today.

3. We sang the song Jingle Bells, didnt we?

4. By the time we arrived the snow has stopped.

5. Neither my brother or my sister likes the cold.

Name _____

Write: Persuade your family to start a new winter break tradition.

Name the tradition, give three strong reasons with examples, answer one objection, and end with a call to action.

Plan: jot your ideas here before you write.

Name _____

Winter Break Reading Log

Write what you read each day, or draw a small picture. A grown-up initials the last box.

Day	What I read	Minutes	Grown-up
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			



Winter Reading Champion

This certificate goes to

_____

for finishing all 14 days of the 5th grade Winter Break Pack.

Signed _____ Date _____

Answer Key

For grown-ups. Praise effort first, then fix one thing at a time.

Word search

HEMISPHERE: row 1, column 2, across; ASTRONOMY: row 2, column 7, down; CELEBRATE: row 12, column 1, across; SOLSTICE: row 4, column 3, down; DAYLIGHT: row 3, column 1, down; EQUATOR: row 5, column 5, down; TILTED: row 4, column 11, down; SEASON: row 6, column 10, down; ORBIT: row 7, column 2, down; AXIS: row 4, column 12, down

Reading questions

1. Earth's axis is tilted about 23.5 degrees; in December the Northern Hemisphere leans away from the sun, so days are shortest
2. the Southern Hemisphere leans toward the sun in December
3. people have marked and celebrated the solstice for thousands of years
4. after it, days get longer and there is more light each day

Fix-it sentences

1. After dinner, we read the book *Winter Wonders*.
2. Yes, I have already gone sledding today.
3. We sang the song "Jingle Bells," didn't we?
4. By the time we arrived, the snow had stopped.
5. Neither my brother nor my sister likes the cold.

Writing

Look for: a clear beginning, details, and an ending; capital letters and end marks; spelling words used correctly.