

Wednesday, 21st December: the Smallest Day of the Year

20th December, 2022

In the northern hemisphere, the Winter Solstice is on **Wednesday, 21st December**.

In the northern hemisphere, it occurs when the north pole reaches its maximum tilt away from the sun. In common parlance, it is known as the shortest day of the year.

(In the southern hemisphere, on the same day, it would be the Summer Solstice.- i.e. the day with the shortest period of the daylight of the year)

The Solstices occurs because the earth does not spin upright or perpendicular to its orbit. The earth slouches 23.5 degrees on a tilted axis.

So, the planet's northern hemisphere spends half the year tilted slightly towards the sun. This part of the year is summer half of the year in the northern hemisphere.

When the northern hemisphere is tilted slightly away from the sun, the northern hemisphere has winter.

Note: *The comparison with other planets is given in New York Times in an article called "Give Thanks for the Winter Solstice. You Might Not Be Here Without It".*

It was published on 17 December 2017 at

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/20/science/winter-solstice-december-21.html>