TEACHER'S GUIDE

Listening activities and suggested answers

Why is it dark on the way to school?

This version: English | Duration: 9:36 (about 10 min)

Published languages: English, Finnish.

YouTube: youtu.be/W6BVxQlXe9I
Spotify: open.spotify.com/episode/5Eu3rVTjWXQO2luKir6yGu

Introduce the questions before listening. Students write answers after the whole episode. Discuss their answers as a class or in pairs.

Suggested answers are in italics. Accept students' own wording when the meaning is correct.

1 **Why does Finland have fewer hours of daylight in winter than in summer?**

Earth's axis is tilted. In winter, the Northern Hemisphere leans away from the Sun, so Finland spends less of each rotation in sunlight.

2 **What is polar night?**

During polar night, the Sun does not rise above the horizon at all. In northernmost Finland, this can last for weeks. It is not necessarily pitch-black all day: there can be daytime twilight.

3 **Why does snow make the landscape look brighter?**

Snow reflects the light falling on it into its surroundings. Wet, dark ground absorbs more light. Snow does not make its own light or make the day longer.

4 **Draw two patches of light**

Light shining straight down makes a smaller, more concentrated patch. Light at an angle stretches out or covers a larger area. The same light then has more surface to illuminate.

Teaching tip: Accept, for example, a small circle and a larger oval. Optionally demonstrate both patches with a torch; students can also complete the task using the episode alone.