

**PD Leader Master**  
**Practice Identifying One Main Learning Goal**  
**The Sun's Effect on Climate**  
**(Answer Key)**

Use Analysis Guide A (Identifying One Main Learning Goal) to assess the quality of the following candidate learning goals.

One Main Learning Goal	Strong Learning Goal? Yes/No	Reasons
1. Why are places closer to Earth's equator hotter than places farther away from the equator?	No	This is a question.
2. Earth orbits the Sun.	No	Not a concept worthy of 40 minutes of instruction for 6th graders
3. Describing patterns in global temperature data in December and June	No	This is an activity, not a science idea.
4. The angle of sunlight striking different latitudes creates uneven heating of Earth's surface.	Yes	Complete sentence and a big idea that will challenge student thinking
5. Earth's tilted axis and seasons	No	Not a complete sentence; could be considered topics rather than science ideas
6. Earth's consistent tilt toward the North Star and orbit around the Sun produces opposite seasons in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.	Yes	Complete sentence and a big idea that will challenge student thinking
7. Earth's orbit around the Sun is slightly elliptical, so slight that it can be considered a circular orbit.	No	This is a fact.
8. Modeling Earth's orbit with a lightbulb and a globe	No	This is an activity, not a science idea.
9. In addition to how far north or south a city is from the equator, elevation affects an area's climate.	Yes	Complete sentence and a big idea that will challenge student thinking