

The sunlight

We are on the top of the Earth. The course of the year is influenced by the climate. The very long, cold winter makes heavy demands of man in the Arctic. In North Greenland the snow may fall all year round. In May the snow still remains in the towns in Southern Greenland. Often there may be snow showers on the national day, 21 June.

The summer is short and hectic. In September the night frost comes back and the snow again covers the peaks of the mountains.

But most important is the cycle of the sun. The Arctic Circle passes through Greenland near the Atlantic airport at Kangerlussuaq in the central Greenland. North of the Arctic Circle, the sun is not even up over the horizon in a period of the winter. In turn, there is a period in the summer when the sun never sets.

South of the Arctic Circle, there is no midnight sun in the summer or polar night in the winter, but this part of Greenland is characterized by long light nights in the summer and short dark days in the winter. This darkness of winter is lightened somewhat when the first snow has fallen.

The photo of the week is from the town Qaqortoq in South Greenland. At the end of May the last sunlight shines on the houses of the city.



The last sunlight shines on the houses in Qaqortoq, May 2009