

What came before?

Year 1 - Out of This World

What comes next?

Year 3 - Jurassic World

Year 4 - Extreme Earth

The Auroras

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



KEY KNOWLEDGE

- The Northern Lights are caused by the sun's charged particles, called solar flares, colliding with the gas atoms in the Earth's atmosphere.
- The famous astronomer Galileo Galilei called them aurora borealis in 1619. He named them after Aurora the Roman goddess of the morning and Boreas the Greek god of the north wind.
- The Northern Lights are most visible to people living in the far north. They are sometimes visible as far south as Florida.
- The best time of year to see the northern lights is in winter because the nights are longer and the lights easier to see.
- The Northern Lights are typically green, purple, red or blue.
- The Vikings thought the Northern Lights were caused by the shining weaponry of immortal warriors. The Alaskan Inuit people believed the lights were the souls of animals. The Menominee Indians thought the lights were the torches of giants living in the North.
- Near the South Pole, people may see the Southern Lights or Aurora Australis. These lights are not as easily visible.

The Aurora Borealis are one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World. Otherwise known as The Northern Lights, they are bright streams of purple, green, red and yellow dancing in the night sky. People have been interested in the northern lights since ancient times and attract millions of tourists to countries near the North Pole every year.



KEY VOCABULARY

atmosphere: the envelope of gases surrounding the Earth.

colliding: crashing into

Equator: the imaginary line around the middle of the planet

magnetic field: the area around the Earth where there is a magnetic force

Northern Hemisphere: the half of the Earth that is north of the Equator.

solar winds: a stream of particles released from the Sun.

