

What are Auroras?

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What are Auroras?

- An aurora is a **natural light display** in Earth's sky, predominantly seen in **high-latitude regions (around the Arctic and Antarctic)**.
- Auroras are caused by the **interaction of energetic particles** (electrons and protons) **of the solar wind with atoms of the upper atmosphere**.
- Auroras display dynamic patterns of brilliant lights that appear as curtains, rays, spirals, or dynamic flickers covering the entire sky.
- They are also commonly known as the **northern lights (aurora borealis) or southern lights (aurora australis)**.

What is the Aurora Borealis?

- Often called the **Northern Lights**, it occurs in the **northern hemisphere**, predominantly in regions **near the Arctic Circle**.
- This includes countries like **Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Canada, and Alaska**.
- The northern lights result **from charged particles from the sun**, mainly electrons and protons, **colliding with the Earth's magnetosphere and interacting with gases** in the Earth's atmosphere.

- These collisions produce **colourful displays** of light, **primarily in green, red and purple hues**.
 - The bright colors of the northern lights are dictated by the chemical composition of Earth's atmosphere.
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Q1: What is a Solar flare?

It is an intense burst of radiation coming from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots. Flares are our solar system's largest explosive events.

Source: [Knowledge Nugget of the day: Northern lights](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-are-auroras/>

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