

Polar Lights

Intermediate level

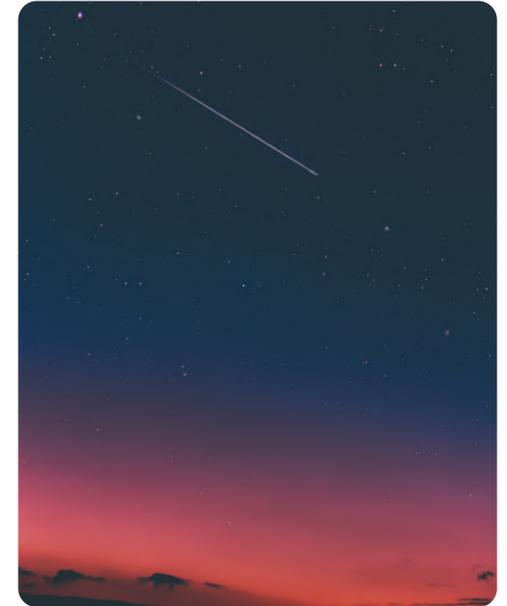
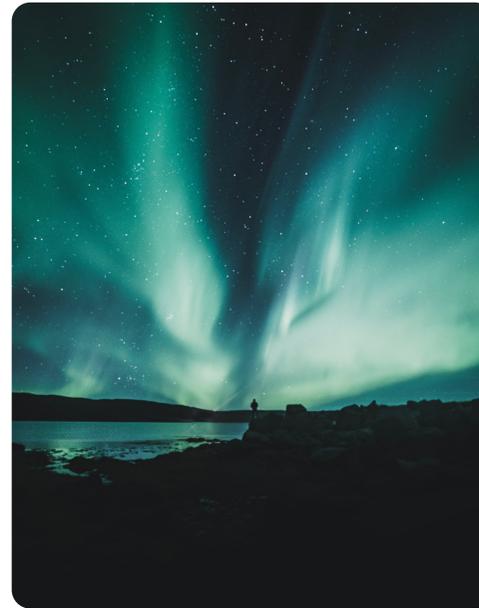
Попробуйте себя в онлайн-преподавании вместе со Skyeng — оставьте [заявку на нашем сайте](#), это займет около минуты.

Ваш путь к преподаванию начнется сразу же и займет около 14 дней. Мы будем сопровождать и поддерживать вас на каждом этапе.



Task 1. Warm-up

Look at some natural phenomena in the sky and name them.
Answer the questions below.



Have you seen any of them? If so, what was happening in the sky, and what time of year was it? If not, would you like to? Which one is more impressive?

Task 2. Lead-in

Do you know what else this phenomenon is called?
Look at the options and choose the odd one out.

- a) Northern/Southern lights
- b) Merry dancers
- c) Singing lines
- d) Aurora Borealis
- e) Polar lights



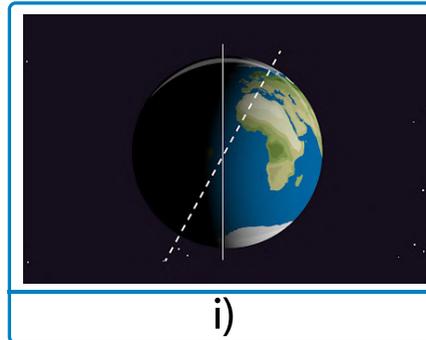
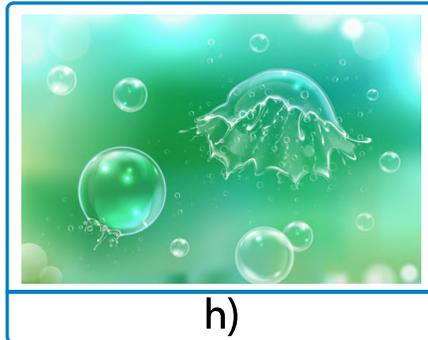
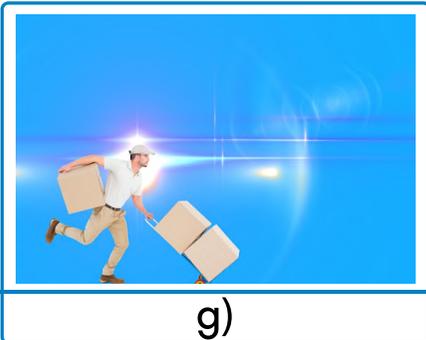
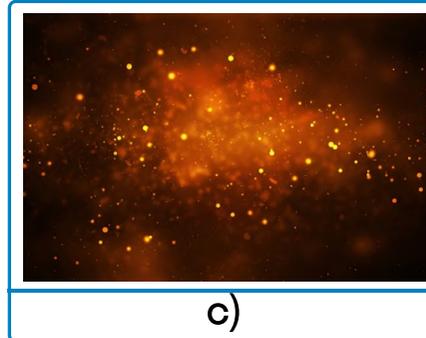
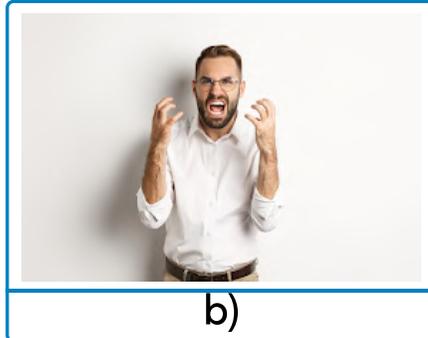
Task 3. Looking at Polar lights

Watch the time-lapse [video](#) by National Geographic and then discuss the questions with your teacher.

1. What colors seem to be most common in the polar lights displays?
2. What shapes did you notice when you looked at the polar lights?
3. Can you see the polar lights from where you live? Do you think there is energy in the lights? What do you think they really are?
4. Imagine yourself camping in Norway. It is a cloudless night and you are staring up at the stars. As you continue to stare up into the night sky, you notice a strange gleaming light. It must be the polar lights! How does looking at these lights make you feel? What emotions or thoughts do you have?

Task 4. Vocabulary

Match the words with the pictures.



1. outburst
2. to burp
3. hemisphere
4. to blast
5. particles
6. ejection
7. to bump into
8. to zoom
9. to pop

Task 5. Vocabulary practice

Complete the sentences with the given words.

ejection, blasted, pops, bumped, outburst, zoom, particles, hemisphere, burp

1. This popcorn _____ quickly in the microwave oven.
2. There has been another angry _____ against the new local tax introduced today.
3. All the windows were _____ inwards with the force of the explosion.
4. Electrons are atomic _____.
5. In China it is polite to _____ at the table.
6. The tennis players literally _____ around the court.
7. If you notice an _____ of black smoke from your car's tailpipe, you'll probably want to take it to a repair shop.
8. This animal is to be found only in the Southern _____.
9. We nearly _____ into another car at the parking lot.

Task 7. Understanding the phenomenon

Watch the [video](#) again and then mark the statements as **TRUE** or **FALSE**.
Correct the false ones.

1. Auroras can't be spotted from space.
2. Depending on its location the size of an aurora changes.
3. Even though auroras are best seen at night, they are actually caused by the Sun.
4. During one kind of solar storm called a coronal mass ejection, the Sun burps out a huge bubble of electrified gas that can travel through space at high speeds.
5. Oxygen gives off blue and purple light. Nitrogen glows green and red.
6. Other planets don't get auroras.

Task 8. Passive and active

Look at the sentences from the video. Define if the structures in bold are active or passive.

1. Some auroras **were spotted** in the sky over central Alaska.
2. We **can see** auroras from space.
3. If you are in the Northern Hemisphere, **it is called** Aurora Borealis or Northern lights.
4. The Sun **causes** these beautiful displays of lights.
5. Auroras **are best seen** at night.
6. The Sun **is constantly sending** heat and light to the Earth.
7. The Sun **does not always send** the same amount of energy.
8. The Earth has a magnetic field, which **protects** us from most solar winds.

Task 9. Practice

Change passive voice sentences into active voice sentences and vice versa.

1. Some auroras were spotted in the sky over central Alaska.
2. We can see auroras from space.
3. If you are in the Northern Hemisphere, it is called Aurora Borealis or Northern lights.
4. The Sun causes these beautiful displays of lights.
5. Auroras are best seen at night.
6. The Sun is constantly sending heat and light to the Earth.
7. The Sun does not always send the same amount of energy.
8. The Earth has a magnetic field, which protects us from most solar winds.

Additional task. Light pollution

Follow the [link](#) and look at the map. Say what you can see and what it represents. Read the information below and do the task.

This is a light pollution map. Light pollution is the presence of unwanted, inappropriate, or excessive use of artificial lighting. It is most commonly an issue in big cities. Light pollution blocks out the view of the stars at night, as well as the polar lights, and so the best chances of seeing them is by moving away from as much light pollution as possible.

The colors on the map represent varying degrees of light pollution. Green, yellow, white, and pink represent areas with lots of light pollution. Blue, grey, and black represent areas with less light pollution.

1. Towards the top left corner, find the search bar and type in the name of the town where you live. What colors do you see in your hometown? Do you think your hometown is a good place to view the northern lights?
2. Which countries can you see the northern lights in? And which countries can you see the southern lights in? What are some countries where you are less likely to see the northern and southern lights?
3. Now type the name of the country where in your opinion you can see this phenomenon into the search bar. What colors do you see? Do you think it is a good place to view the northern lights?

Lesson vocabulary

outburst

a sudden forceful expression of emotion

to burp

to expel gas from the stomach

hemisphere

half of the terrestrial globe

to blast

to use explosives in order to destroy something

a particle

a tiny piece or amount of something

ejection

the act of forcing out someone or something

to bump into

to accidentally hit against something

to zoom

to move along very quickly

to pop

to burst open with a sharp, explosive sound

Keys

Task 1

Elicit: supermoon (full or new moon); rainbow; students will probably say Northern lights, accept any of these correct answers: Polar lights, Southern lights, Aurora Borealis, merry dancers; shooting star.

Task 2

The odd one is c) Singing lines

Task 3

Possible answers: 1. green, purple/red, yellow 2. arcs; bands; corona. You can find more types of polar lights [here](#).

Task 4

1 — b; 6 — f);

2 — d); 7 — a);

3 — i); 8 — g);

4 — e); 9 — h)

5 — c);

Keys

Task 5

1. pops;
2. outburst;
3. blasted;
4. particles;
5. burp;
6. zoom;
7. ejection;
8. hemisphere;
9. bumped

Task 6

Accept any answer at this stage.

After watching elicit that “Solar wind particles interact with Earth’s magnetosphere”.

Task 7

- 1 — True;
- 2 — False (the NAME of aurora changes);
- 3 — True;
- 4 — True;
- 5 — False (Oxygen gives off green and red lights, nitrogen glows blue and purple);
- 6 — False (If a planet has an atmosphere and magnetic field, they probably have auroras)

Task 8

Passive sentences are 1, 3, 5,
active sentences are 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

Task 9

Possible answers:

1. The cameras spotted some auroras in the sky over central Alaska.
2. Auroras can be seen from space.
3. We call it Aurora Borealis or Northern lights in the Northern Hemisphere.
4. These beautiful displays of lights are caused by the Sun.
5. The best time to see auroras is at night.
6. Heat and light are constantly being sent to the Earth by the Sun.
7. The same amount of energy is not always sent by the Sun.
8. We are protected from most solar winds by a magnetic field the Earth has.

Additional task

If your students are interested, you can go to [The Aurora Zone](#) website and explore the best Aurora hunting destinations.

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