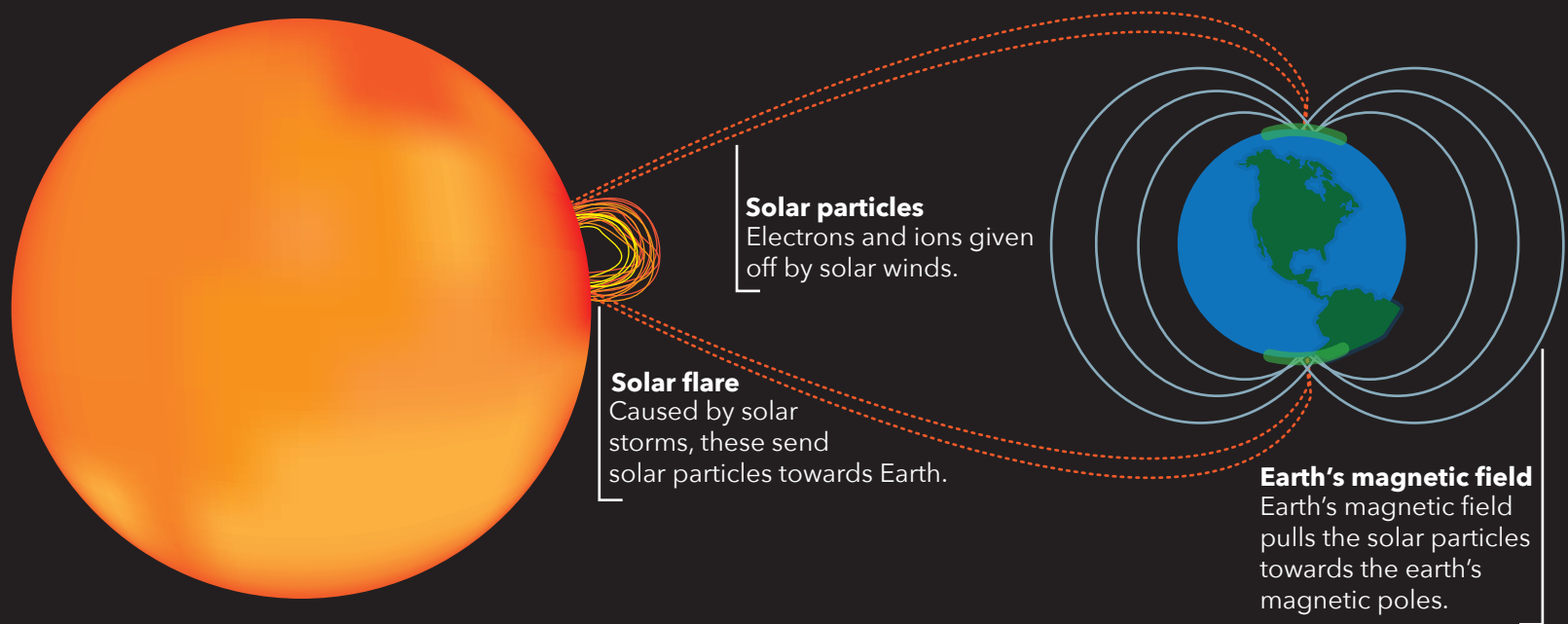


The Cause of Aurora Borealis

The Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, dances through the skies near the Earth's magnetic poles. Our sun has solar storms which send immense gusts of solar particles towards earth. The collision of the particles and earth's atmosphere excite the solar particles and create the Northern Lights as we know them.



Colors of the northern lights



Red, violet, blue

When solar particles collide with nitrogen in Earth's atmosphere. Atomic nitrogen causes blue, while molecular nitrogen creates purple. Red is produced at altitudes over 150 miles, and purple and blue are created at altitudes of 60 miles.

Green, yellow

When oxygen reacts with the solar particles at altitudes of 150 miles for green light.