

## What Causes the Northern Lights? Answer Key

**Directions:** Research the process that creates the Northern Lights. Record the steps in the sequence chain. Use the sequence chain to create your comic strip. Use your creativity and include a story or characters in your comic strip.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Storms on the sun or solar flares send out charged particles toward the earth</b>	<b>The particles encounter Earth's magnetic field/magnetosphere, which deflects most of the particles around the Earth</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A small amount of particles encounter the earth's atmosphere</b>	<b>Electrons in the particles collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms in the earth's atmosphere</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Energy is transferred, exciting the nitrogen and oxygen molecules</b>	<b>The excited molecules release the energy as different colored lights</b>

