

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.

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

