Wonders of the Arctic



Elsie Nelley

PM writing

Explanation & Recount

Wonders of the Arctic

Level 30 Sapphire

Key Learning Area **Social Science**

Theme **Arctic events**

Title **How the Northern Lights Occur**

Text Type *Explanation*

Pages **2–9**

Text Form **Article in a science journal**

Genre **Non-fiction**

Purpose **To explain how or why something occurs**

Text Structure

Identifying Statement: Tells what is to be explained *(Page 2)*.

Explanation Sequence: Explains a series of events or cause and effect *(Pages 3–8)*.

Summary Statement: Draws all the information together *(Page 8–9)*.

Language Features

- Nouns *(e.g. Arctic Circle, particles, magnet)*
- Pronouns *(e.g. they)*
- Adjectives *(e.g. giant, smooth)*
- Present tense verbs *(e.g. flows, blows)*
- Adverbs *(e.g. most often, downwards)*
- Adverbial phrases *(e.g. as a blaze of colour, in the night sky)*
- Conjunctions/Text connectives *(e.g. when)*

Title **The Iditarod Sled Dog Race**

Text Type *Recount*

Pages **10–16**

Text Form **Blog**

Genre **Non-fiction**

Purpose **To retell and evaluate events and experiences**

Text Structure

Orientation: Provides information about who, where and when *(Page 10)*.

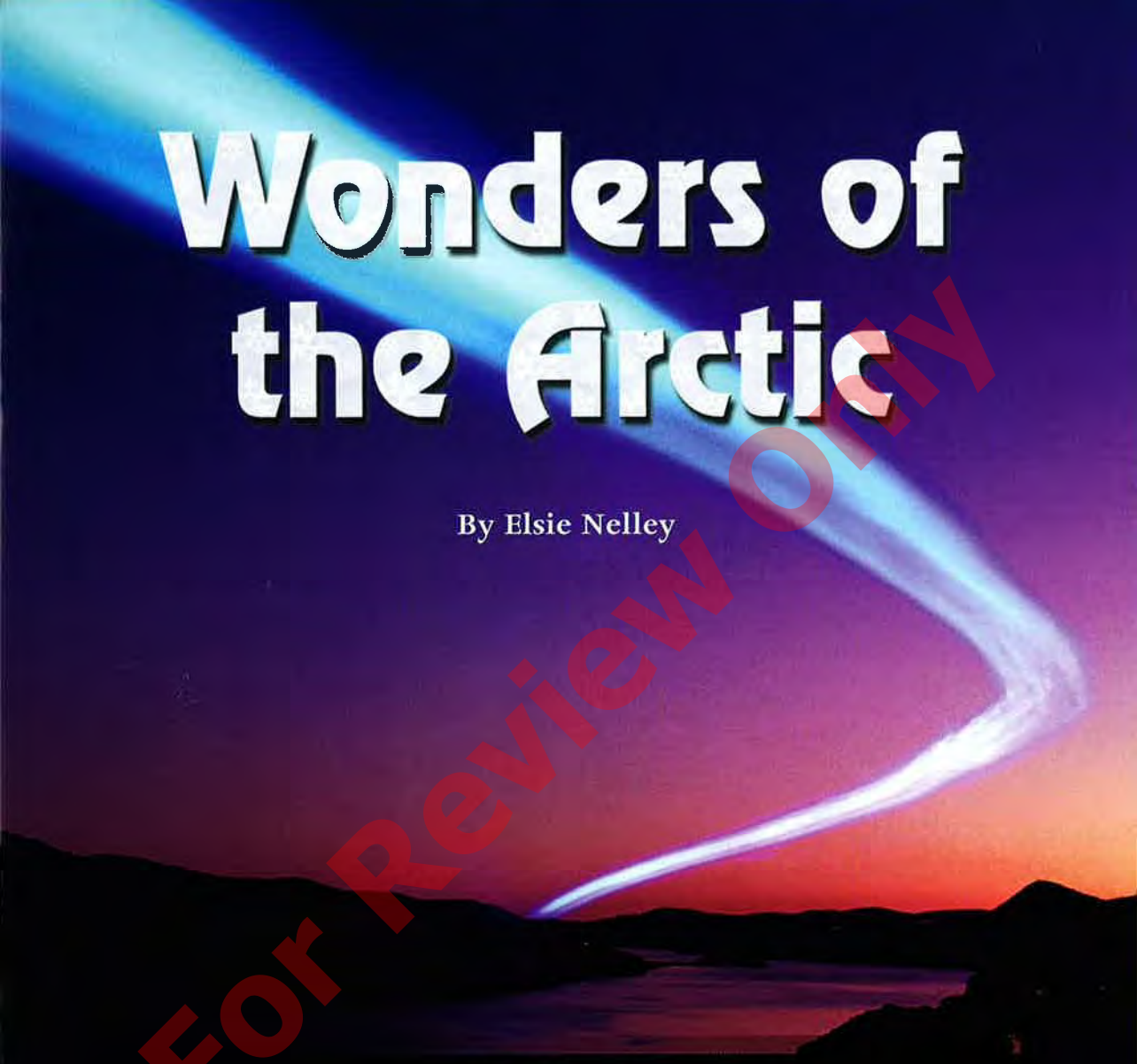
Sequence of Events: Presents events in chronological order *(Pages 11–15)*.

Personal Comment: Evaluates the events that took place *(Page 16)*.

Language Features

- Nouns *(e.g. Alaska, barriers)*
- Pronouns *(e.g. I, we, they)*
- Adjectives *(e.g. essential, enthusiastic)*
- Past tense verbs *(e.g. bellowed, cheered)*
- Adverbs *(e.g. Recently, behind, eagerly)*
- Adverbial phrases *(e.g. along the snow-covered street)*
- Time and sequence words *(e.g. As the start time ticked down towards ten o'clock)*

For Review Only



Wonders of the Arctic

By Elsie Nelley

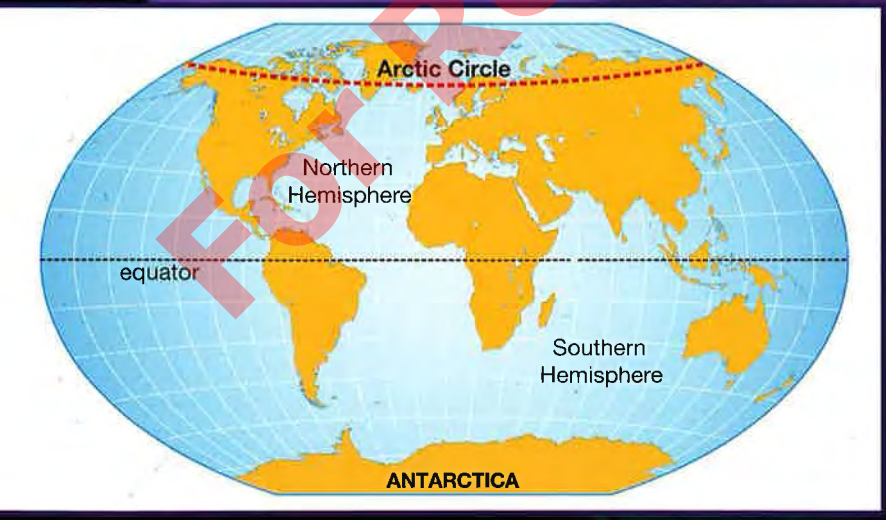
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How the Northern Lights Occur

The northern lights glow as a blaze of colour in the night sky around the Arctic Circle.

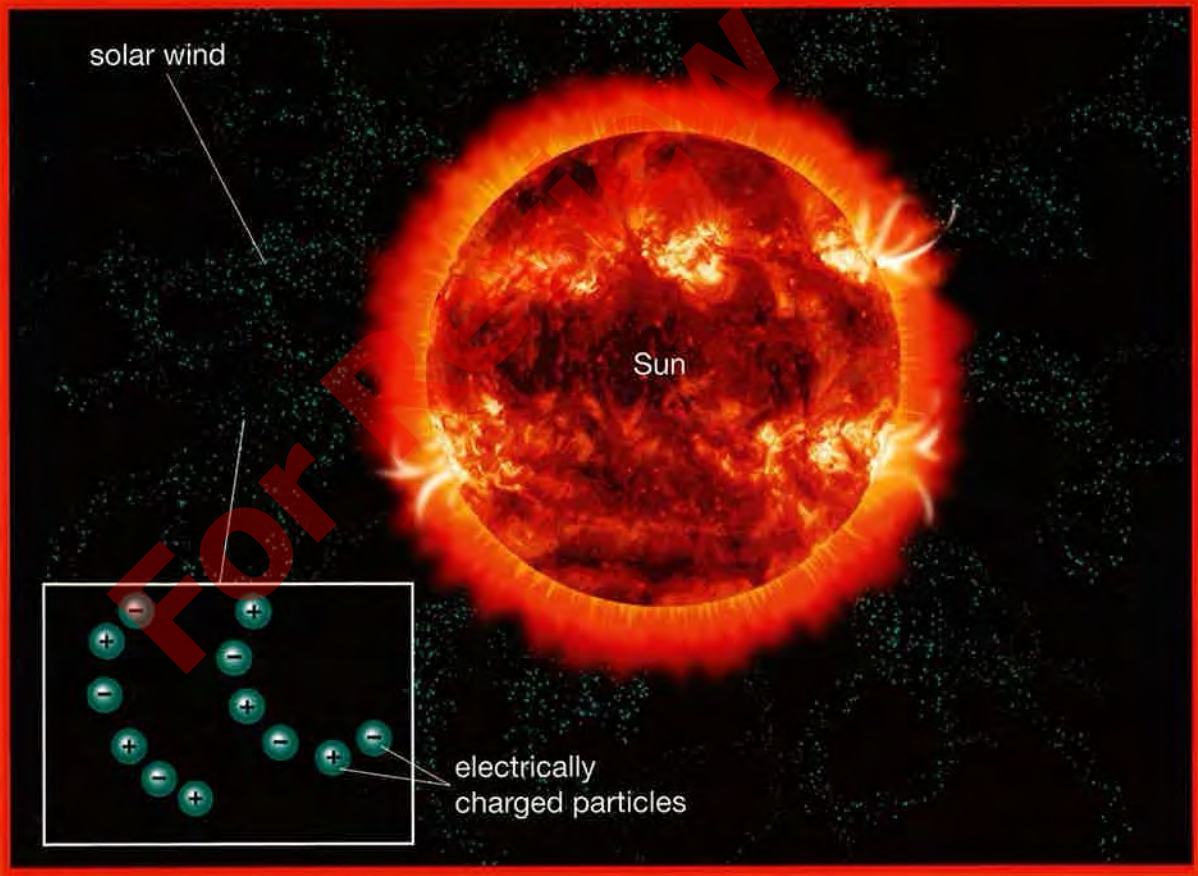


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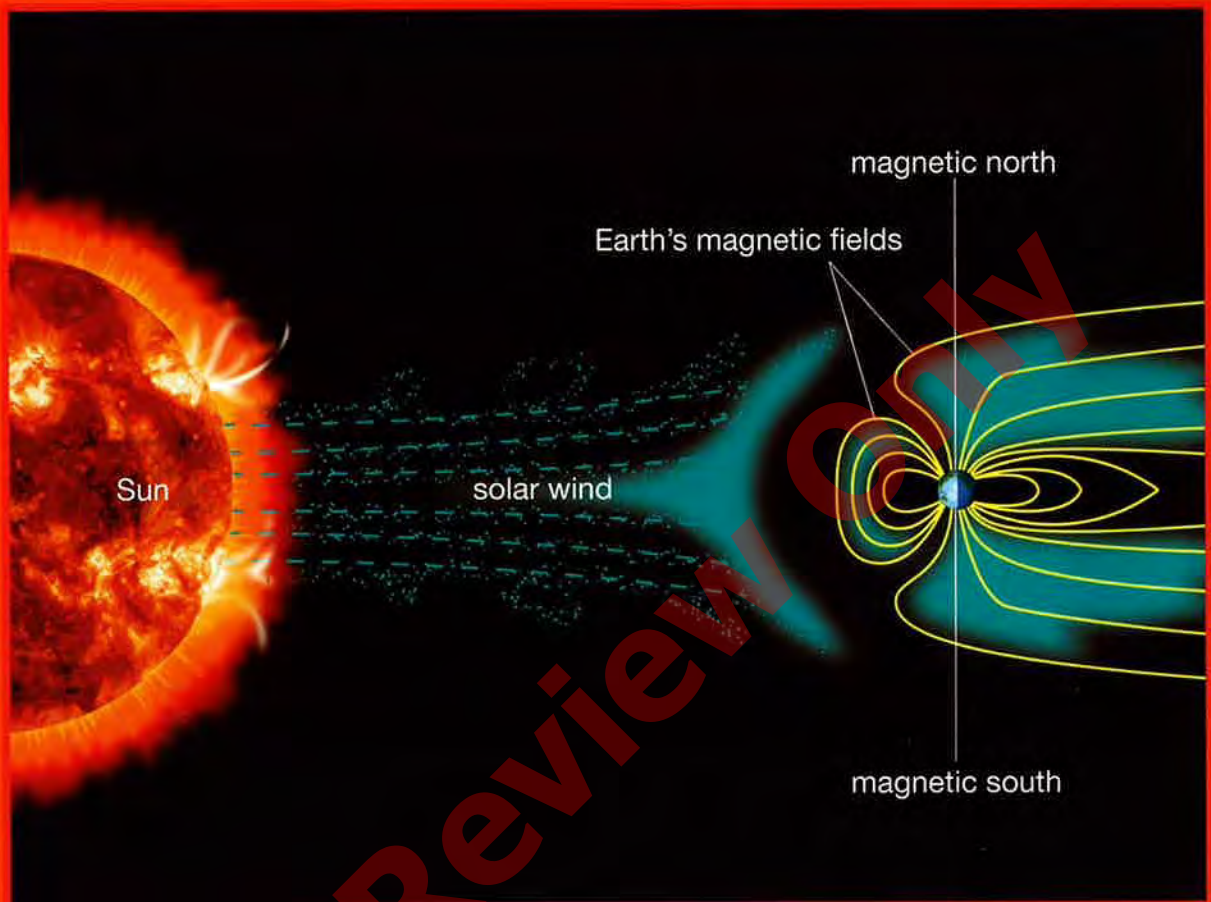
They occur most often from September to April and are only visible within the Northern Hemisphere. The lights are caused by particles that come from the Sun's surface.

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The surface of the Sun is not a quiet place. Storms and giant explosions occur there. When these happen, millions of tiny particles that contain electricity, break away from the surface of the Sun. The particles are thrown out into space and carried away from the Sun by the solar wind. The solar wind flows towards and around the planets, including Earth, in space.



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In space, Earth acts like a huge magnet. Some particles become trapped in Earth's magnetic field when the solar wind blows in the direction of Earth. The trapped particles are then pulled downwards by Earth's two magnetic poles.

When these particles meet with gases in the sky far above Earth, energy is released. Some of the energy glows and appears as coloured lights in the sky. Different gases produce different colours.



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The most common colour produced by the gases is green. However, shades of red, blue and purple are also seen. Sometimes, the colours are so pale they can hardly be seen at all. At other times they can be extremely bright. When the solar wind blows strongly, the colour of the lights is more spectacular.

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