GIF Process Book

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Introduction

The topic I chose for my Gifograph is about how to view the Aurora Borealis and the Aurora Australis, they are also known as the Northern and Southern lights that are more likely to be seen in the night sky close to the poles.

This book you are reading will show the processes it took to create the gifograph.

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Research

What is it?

The Aurora is the rippling night sky display that is found at the northernmost and the southernmost reaches of the earth. The northern lights are called the Aurora Borealis and the southern lights are called the Aurora Australis.

They occur when the sun releases a solar wind that carries charged particles that are guided towards Earth where those particles interact with the planet's atmospheric particles along the magnetic field. Because of these particles interacting with each other, we have a beautiful light show in the night sky.

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When is the best time to see them?

It is best to view them when it is night outside. Since in the northernmost and southernmost parts of Earth experience 24-hour daylight during the local summer and 24-hour darkness during the local winter, it is best to travel to see them when it is winter.

The times of winter depend on whether you want to travel to the northern hemisphere or the southern hemisphere. The northern hemisphere experiences their winter from December to March. The southern hemisphere experiences their winter from June to August.

Another thing to check on is how active the Sun is at that time. The sun has this 11-year cycle of activity, the more active the sun is, the more active the aurora will likely be. When looking at this information, be sure to check for upticks in active reasons as well as the coronal mass ejections

of charged particles, which are the key to lighting up the lights. If the activity seems quiet there will be a chance of it being more intense later on.

The best time to see the Aurora is between 10 pm and 2 am local time, but these active periods can happen anytime when it is dark. These periods tend to last about 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Where can you see them?

You can see them pretty much from any where as long as you are near the northern most part of the earth at the right time.

The most famous areas to see the Aurora Borealis, from the northern hemisphere, are at Europe and North America.

The places in Europe to see them are the far northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, when the skies are clear.

The places in North America are Alaska at Hudson Bay, and in Northern Canadian towns such as Yellowknife and Whitehouse will be the perfect locations.

The Aurora Australis is visible near the Antarctic Circle, mainly close to Antarctica.

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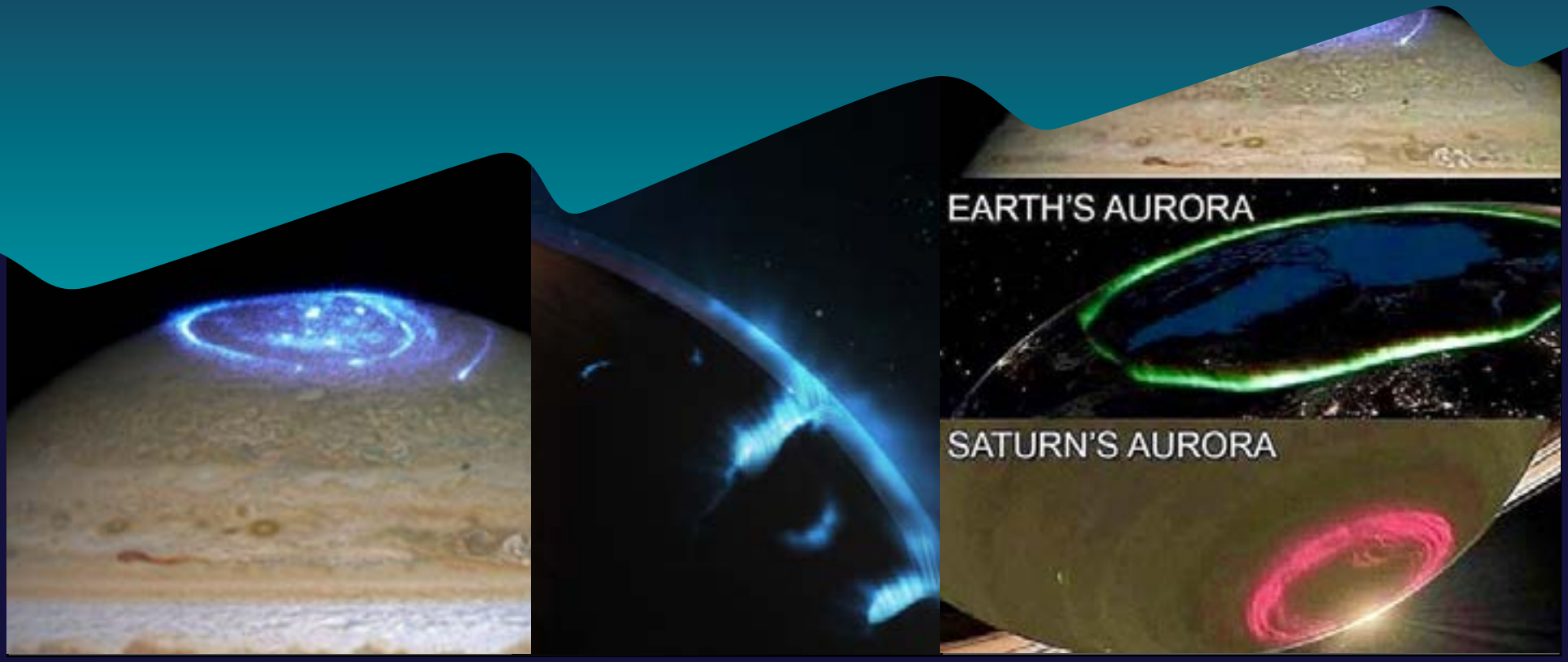
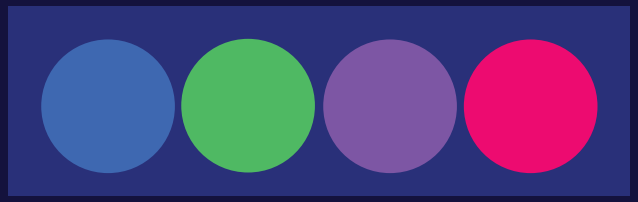


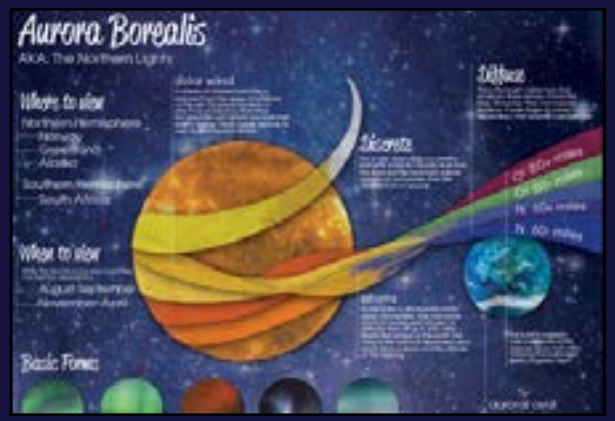
Auroras spotted on other planets

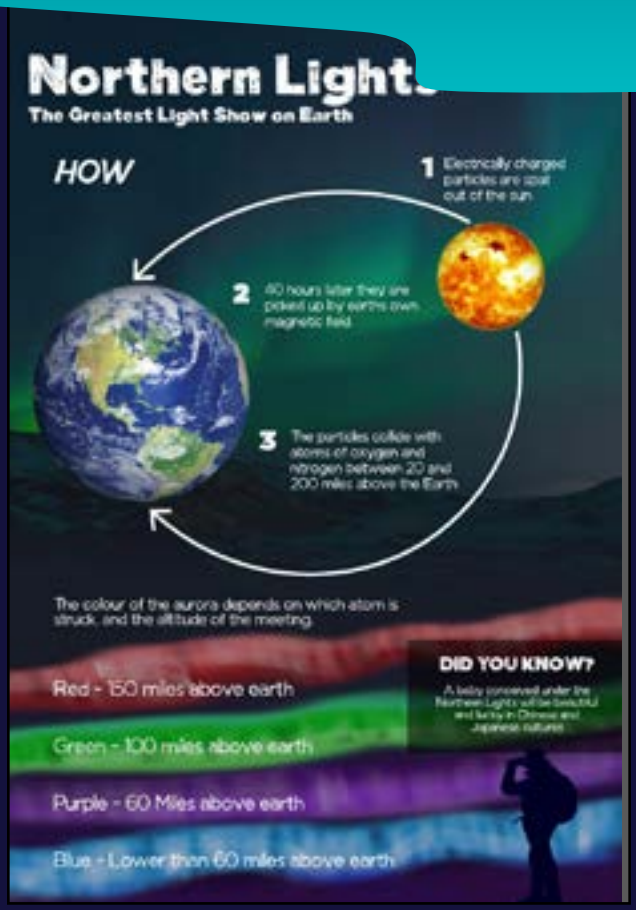
Earth is not the only planet in our solar system to have the spectacular light show. Planets such as Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and even Neptune produce their own auroras because of their magnetic fields. However the colors are different to Earth's because to the different gases in their atmospheres and their magnetosphere.
There are even some that appear on some of the terrestrial planets as well such as Venus and Mars. Venus's was discovered by the Venus Express spacecraft after detecting solar field interactions that formed a 'magnetosphere' that generates an aurora. Mars has local ones over a magnetic field in its crust and a larger northern hemisphere one generated from solar energetic particles that hit its atmosphere.



Mood board

Here is my mood board. The images were found by looking up on google infographics on the aurora. It is mainly where my inspirations came from for the gif, including the color theme, how some of the ideas were going to be displayed, and the overall feel of it when completed should be.





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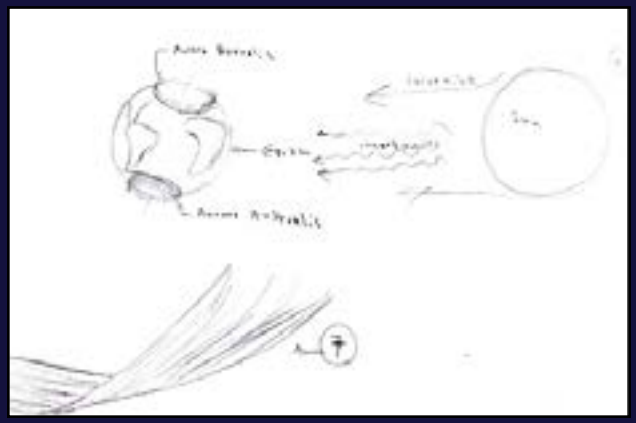
Sketches

Here are some of the beginning sketches of the style I thought about for the gifograph. Mainly how to vectorize certain things such as the Aurora, the landscape, mainly to visualize what the frames will look like.



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Storyboard

Over here I made the main frames for the gifograph and how it will play out.

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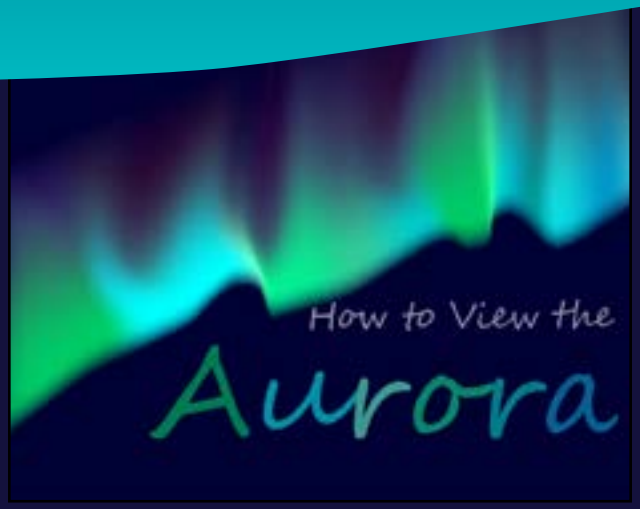

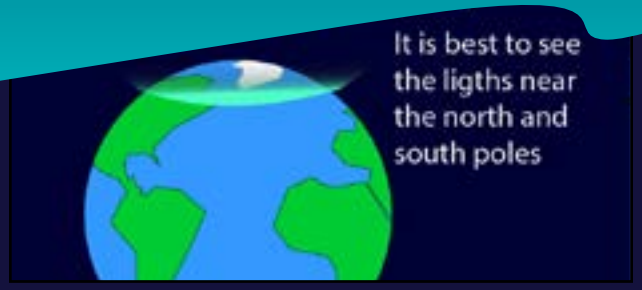

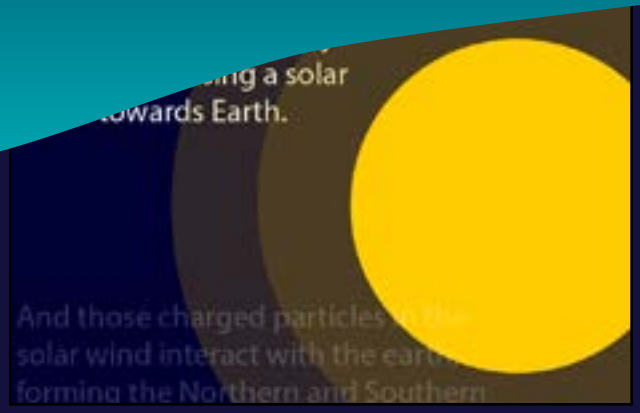

Frame Vectors

Using Adobe Illustrator, I created the individual frames in vector format so they will not look pixilated.

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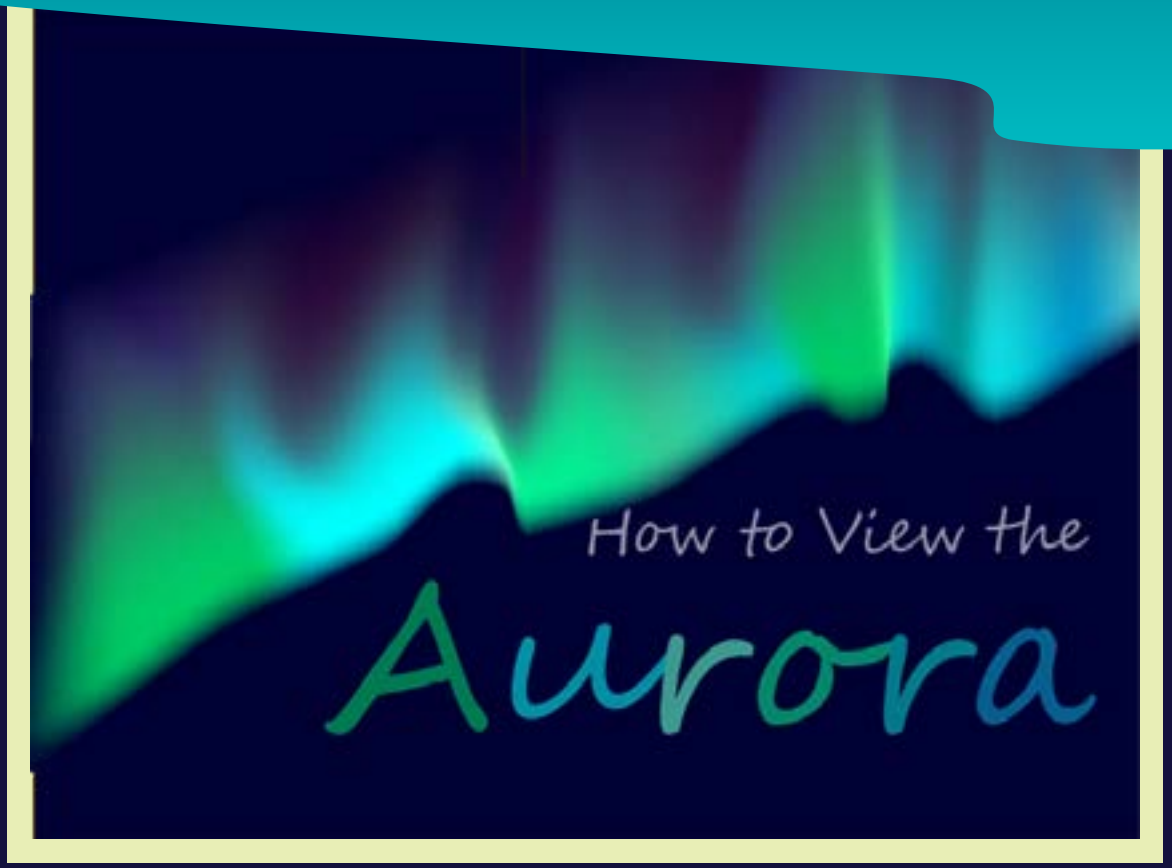
Final GIF

To view the gif in it's complete form, simply click on the image to the right.



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Sources and Contact Information

Stock images: Pexels

Research: Aurora Borealis

Where to see the northern lights

Email:

Sarah Greenfield

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