



Make an Aurora Bracelet

Including oxygen and Nitrogen, cause the different colors of the northern lights. Make a bracelet to remind you of the aurora colors!



Materials Needed:

String (about 12 inches long), 2 red pony beads, green pony beads, 2 purple pony beads, scissors.

Note: Pony beads can be made from paper. Follow the instructions here:

www.bigbeadlittlebead.com/guides_and_information/guide_to_making_paper_beads.php

Instructions:

Step 1:

Aurora Colors

The sun emits a constant stream of particles, called the solar wind. Some of these particles are deflected by Earth's magnetic field and move toward the poles. When the particles enter the atmosphere, they crash into gases. This excites the gases in the atmosphere, and they give off light like a neon sign.

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These particles create different colors of the aurora:

Red light is caused by energized oxygen high in the atmosphere.

Green, the most common light, is caused by energized oxygen in the middle of the atmosphere.

Purple light, which can appear white or light blue to human eyes, is caused by energized nitrogen lower in the atmosphere.

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The aurora seen from the International Space Station. Image: NASA.

Joe Huff / NASA