

Aurora Borealis

Background information

The Aurora, sometimes referred to as, northern lights is a natural light display in the Earth's sky, predominantly seen in the high-latitude regions such as Finland. The lights are an incredible blend of green, purple, red or blue caused by electrons from solar winds. The fascinating light show is caused by collisions between electrically charged particles released from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere and collide with gases such as oxygen and nitrogen. Create your own shining sky in a jar or paint the sky.

Time: 30 minutes each or whole meeting for both activities

Suitable for: All sections

Equipment/Additional Materials:

For Glitter jar:

One jar per girl
Glitter glue
Glitter
Warm water
Food colouring

For Paint the night sky:

Paper
Coloured Paint
Paint brushes
Glitter

Method:

For Glitter jar:

1. Choose a suitable jar.
2. Assemble glitter and food colouring.
3. Boil enough water to almost fill the jar. Pour the water into the jar once it has cooled slightly.
4. Add a few drops of food coloring. Go slowly, adding only enough to reach the color you desire.
5. Add the glitter. Tip in the glitter and the glitter glue. Stir to mix through.
6. Place lid on the jar securely.
7. Shake and use.



Paint the Night Sky:

1. Start with a blank piece of paper.
2. Be creative and think about the colours you want in the night sky such as orange, purple, blue, or just white and black.
3. Using your colour paints and brushes in water paint your version of the night sky. This can be the one you just looked at or one from a memory.
4. Add glitter for extra sparkle.
5. You could do this by a technique called marbling:
 - Use non-perfumed shaving foam.
 - Mix colours you want in.
 - Place paper on top to create desired effect



Hints and tips:

- When using paint and colouring, it is important to protect your work area and clothes.
- Be sure to use a jam jar which is safe to use with boiling water.
- Make sure the lid is screwed tightly, to prevent leaks when being shaken.

Take it further

- Use the internet to research pictures and videos of the Northern lights. Plot on a map where they are seen.