

Weather

Teach about various weather phenomena and motivate the novice meteorologists in your classroom!

12 A4 Learning Cards



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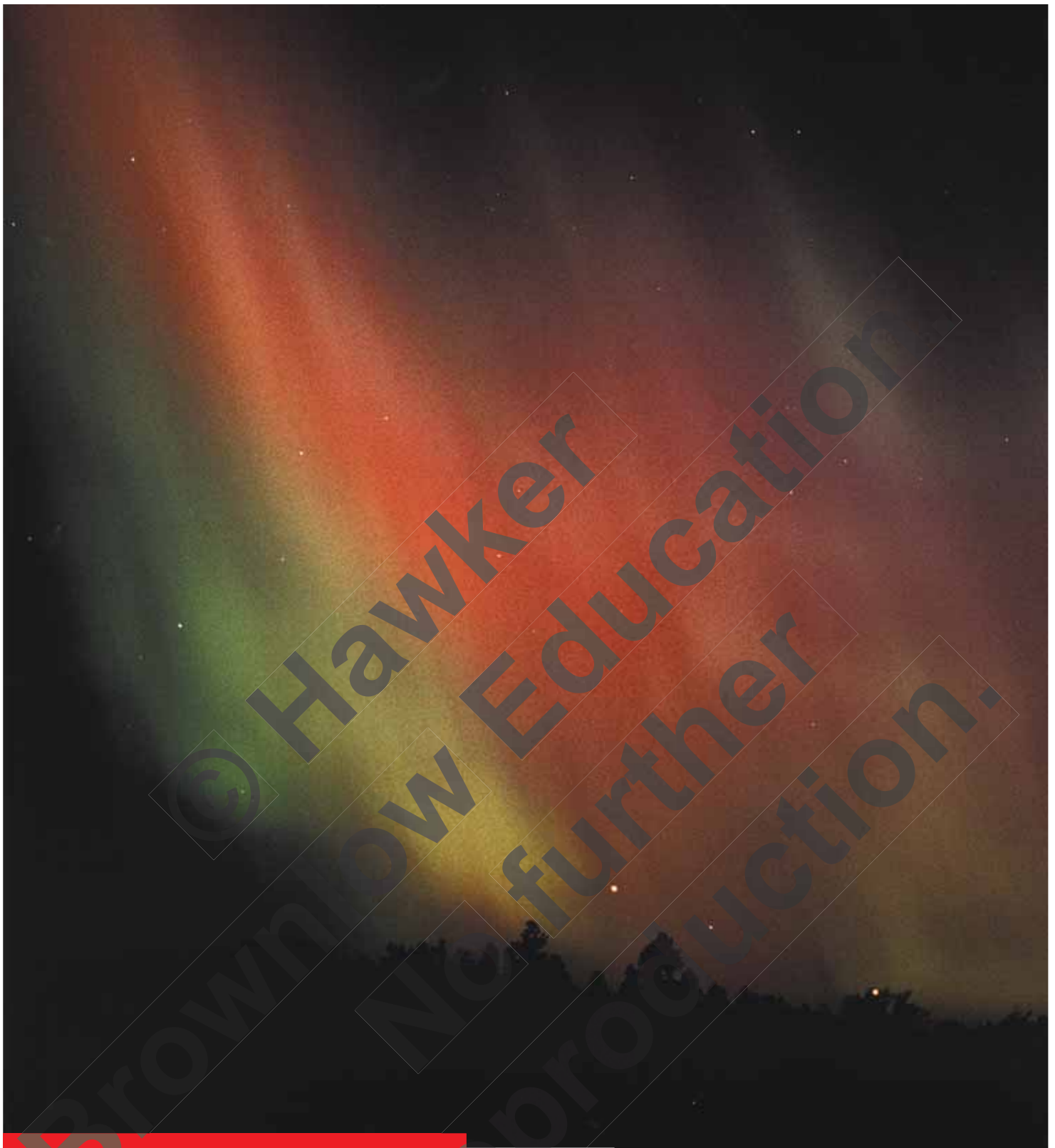
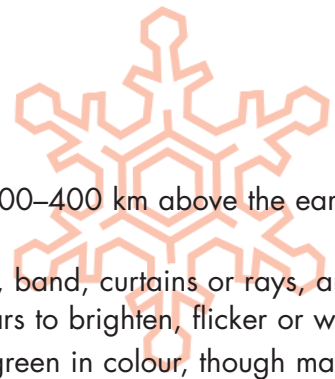


Photo credit: © Peter

Aurora

- Night-time, coloured light display usually seen in the northernmost and southernmost regions.
- Known as *aurora borealis* or *northern lights* in the Northern Hemisphere and as *aurora australis* or *southern lights* in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Caused by high-energy solar particles interacting with the earth's upper atmosphere and magnetic field.
- May form from 100–400 km above the earth's surface.
- May form an arc, band, curtains or rays, and sometimes appears to brighten, flicker or wave.
- Most commonly green in colour, though may also appear blue, purple or red.



Cirrus



Cumulus



Stratus



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Clouds

- Masses of small water droplets or tiny ice crystals that float in the air.
- The three main types are cirrus, cumulus and stratus. Other clouds are a mixture of these three main types.

Cirrus

- *Cirrus* – means 'curled' or 'feathery'.
- Form highest in the sky; are made up of ice crystals; and appear as curls, tufts or wisps.
- Usually signal the end of clear weather.

Cumulus

- *Cumulo* – means 'heaped' or 'piled'.
- Cottony clouds with flat, usually grey, bases, and puffy, bright white tops.
- Usually signal good weather, but if atmosphere is unstable, can build into towering clouds that

produce showers and thunderstorms.

Stratus

- *Strato* – means 'layerlike' or 'sheetlike'.
- Low-lying, dull-coloured clouds that form in layers or sheets.
- Usually bring drizzling rain or light-falling snow.

Alto

- A prefix meaning 'middle range of clouds' and used to describe clouds that lie from 1980–5640 m.

Nimbus

- A rain cloud.

Other cloud types:

- Cirrocumulus • Cumulonimbus • Nimbostratus
- Cirrostratus • Alto cumulus
- Stratocumulus • Altostratus

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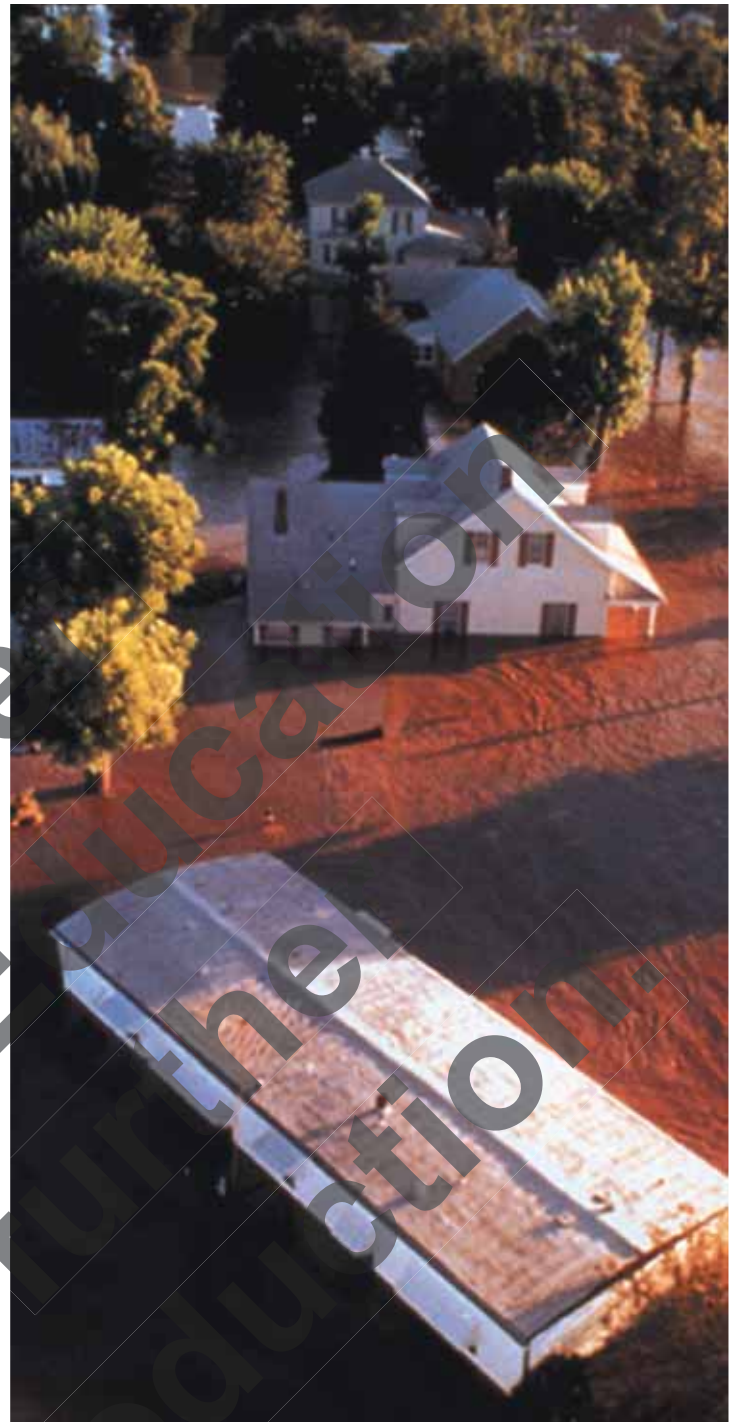


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Drought Flood

- Occurs when an area suffers from very little or no precipitation.
- Usually accompanied by higher-than-normal temperatures.
- Allows unprotected, drying soil to be eroded by wind and causes ponds, streams, wells, and other bodies of water to dry up.
- May last a few months, or years.
- Can affect large areas.
- If dry soil is not covered by a layer of protective vegetation and wind levels are high – 40 km/h or more – a dust storm may occur.

- Occurs when a body of water overflows its normal boundaries.
- Caused by heavy rains from a hurricane or thunderstorm, melting ice and snow, waters from a damaged or failed dam, a tsunami, or a seiche.
- Causes damage to homes and property and may wash away topsoils.
- Can sometimes be controlled by dykes, flood walls, hurricane barriers and levees.