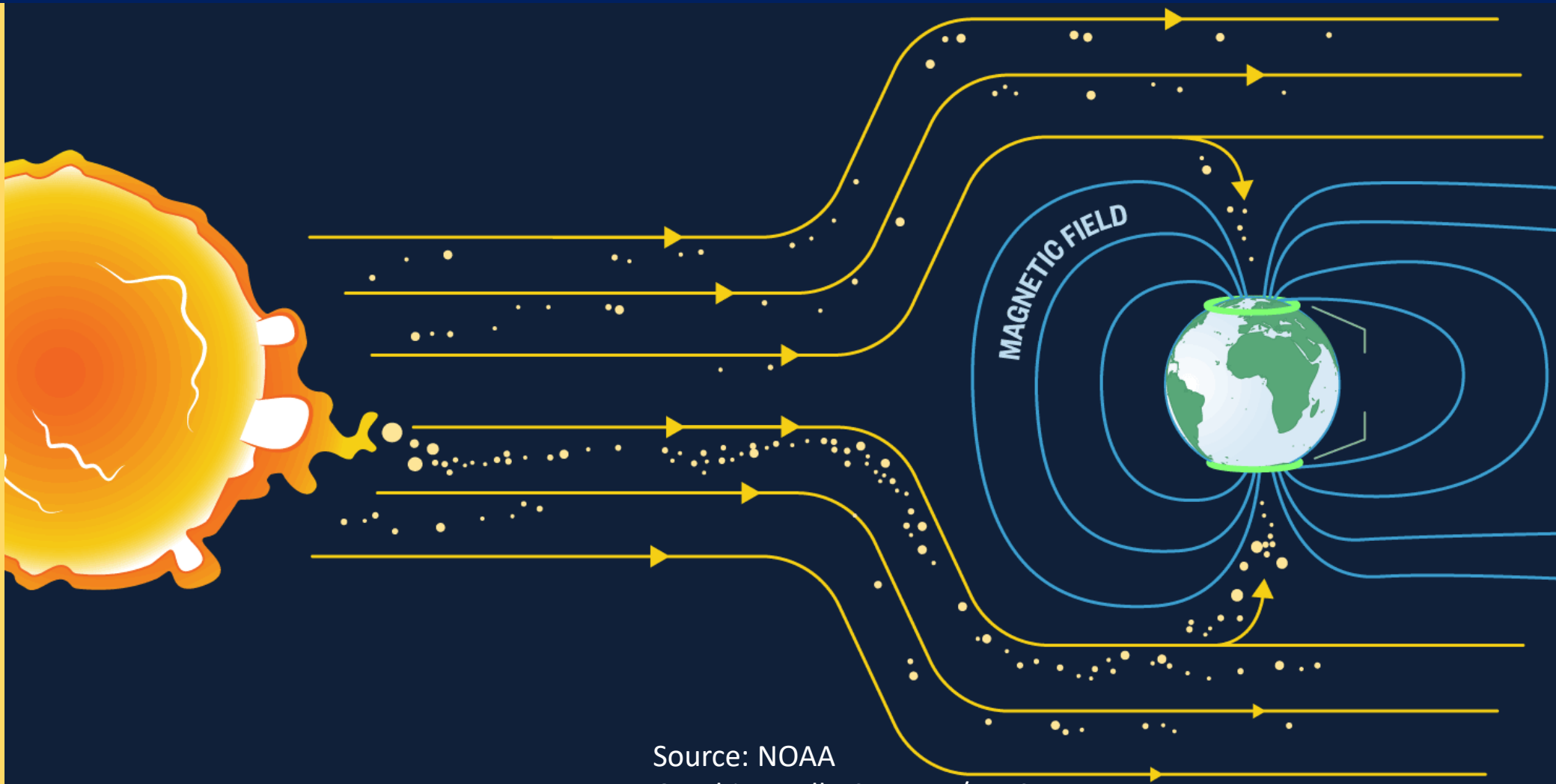


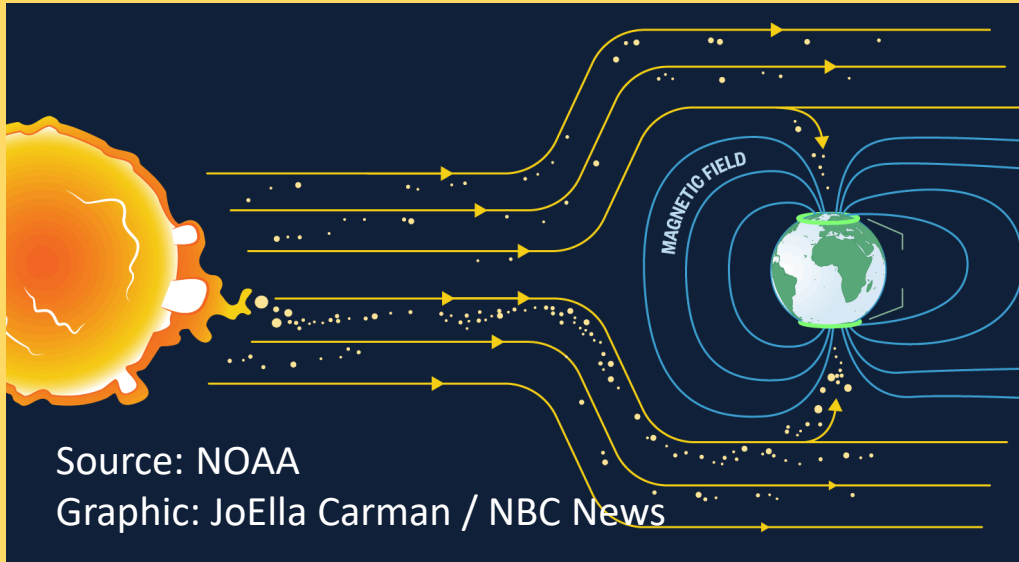
The Northern Lights, AKA aurora borealis, were spectacular across North America in mid-November. Did you see them? Interpret this graphic that describes the source of the Northern Lights.



Source: NOAA

Graphic: JoElla Carman / NBC News

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The phenomenon starts with ejection of solar material.

During a coronal mass ejection*, the sun expels billions of tons of superheated mass (called plasma) and magnetic field, at high speeds over several hours. Some of this material travels toward our planet. The Earth's magnetic field changes the course of most of the sun's particles, but some enter at the north and south poles, where interactions with our atmosphere create the spectacular light show.

Time permitting, google for photos and info!

* <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/nmp/st5/SCIENCE/cme.html>