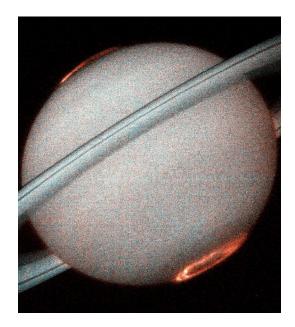
Auroras on Other Planets

Earth isn't the only planet with northern and southern lights.





Auroras light up the sky above Jupiter's north pole, as seen in this

Hubble Space Telescope image

combining views from both visible and ultraviolet instruments.

> We've observed the colorful displays of light known as *auroras* on many different planets. On Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, *solar wind* (charged particles flowing from the Sun) interacts with planetary magnetic fields to create auroras. On Mars and Venus, auroras come from solar wind interacting with the atmosphere.

> The colors of an aurora depend on the gases in a planet's atmosphere, so auroras look different on different worlds. Scientists think some planets in other star systems might also display auroras. What do you think these light displays might look like?

Saturn's powerful magnetic field helps produce auroras at both its north and south poles.