



Aurora Coloring Activity



Name _____ Class _____

Learn about the aurora and use what you will learn to color a picture of the aurora!

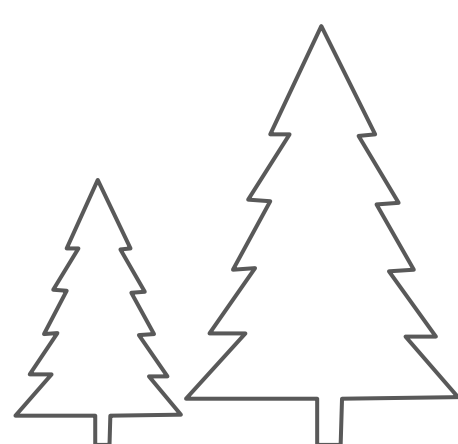
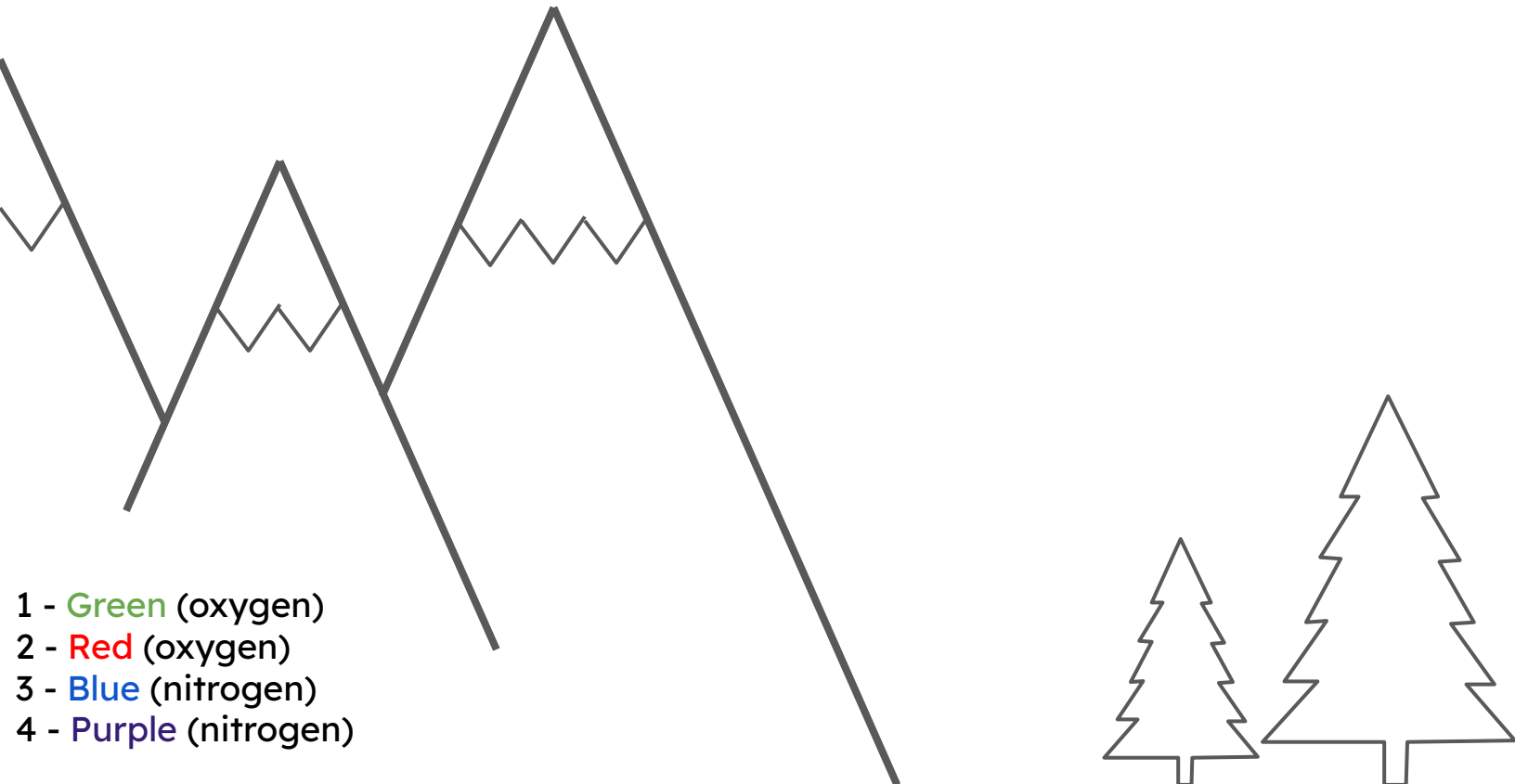
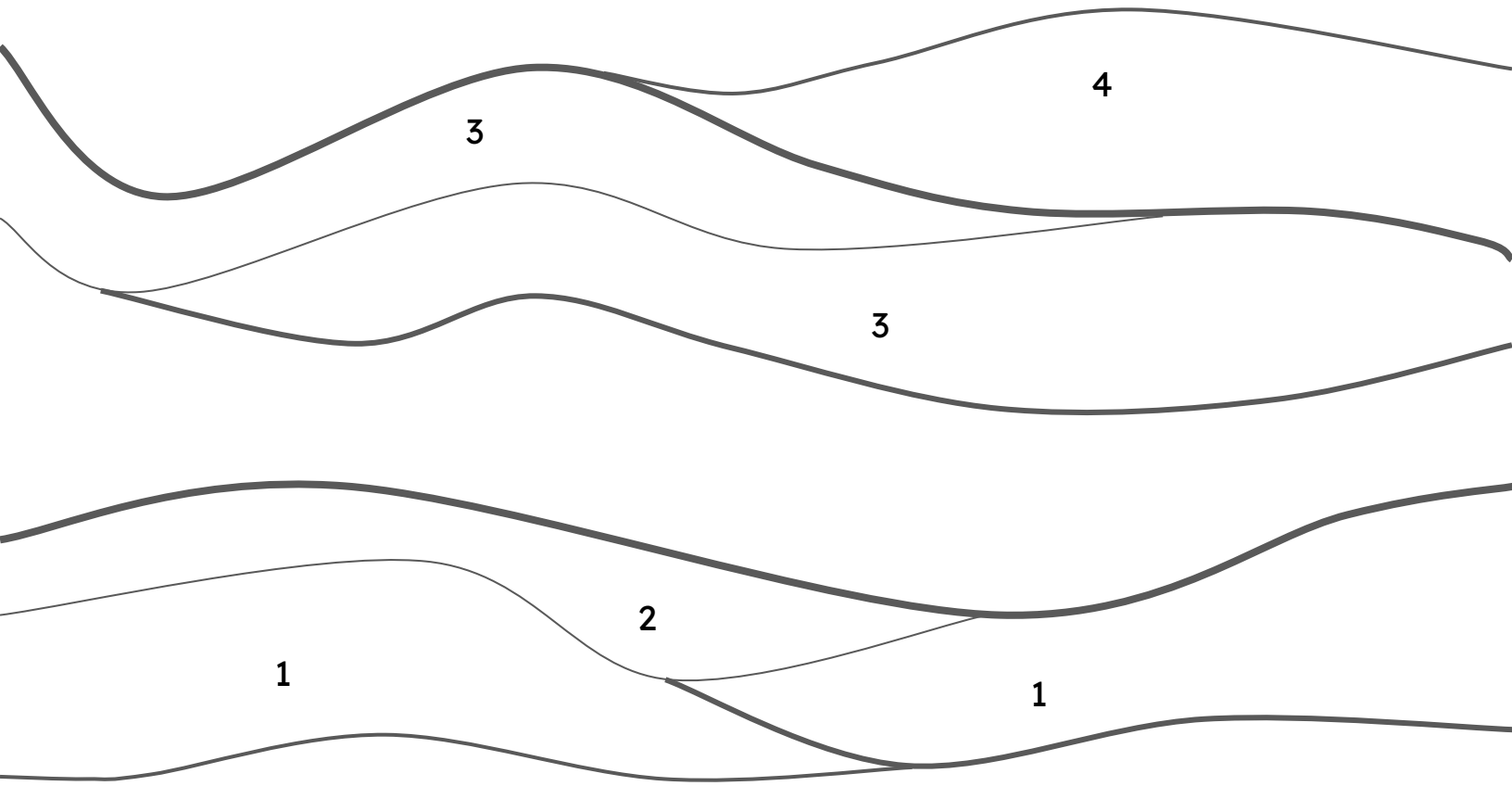
Just like we have weather on Earth, there's weather in space. The bright lights that seem like they're dancing in the night sky are a type of space weather we call the aurora.

Storms on the sun release energy that can reach Earth. The energy interacts with the magnetic field, moving towards the North and South poles. The magnetic field is weaker there, so the energetic particles can collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms in Earth's atmosphere.



When the particles collide, they excite the oxygen and nitrogen atoms by giving them their energy. When the oxygen and nitrogen atoms begin to relax, they release their energy in the form of light. Oxygen releases **red** and **green** light, while nitrogen releases **blue** and **purple** light.





- 1 - Green (oxygen)
- 2 - Red (oxygen)
- 3 - Blue (nitrogen)
- 4 - Purple (nitrogen)

Notes for teachers:

Because the aurora has a range of colors in it, you can give the kids 2-3 different shades for each number and tell them they can make a gradient or mix the colors together.