


Unit 6 - Vanishing Points

VISUAL AID: "Vanishing Points"

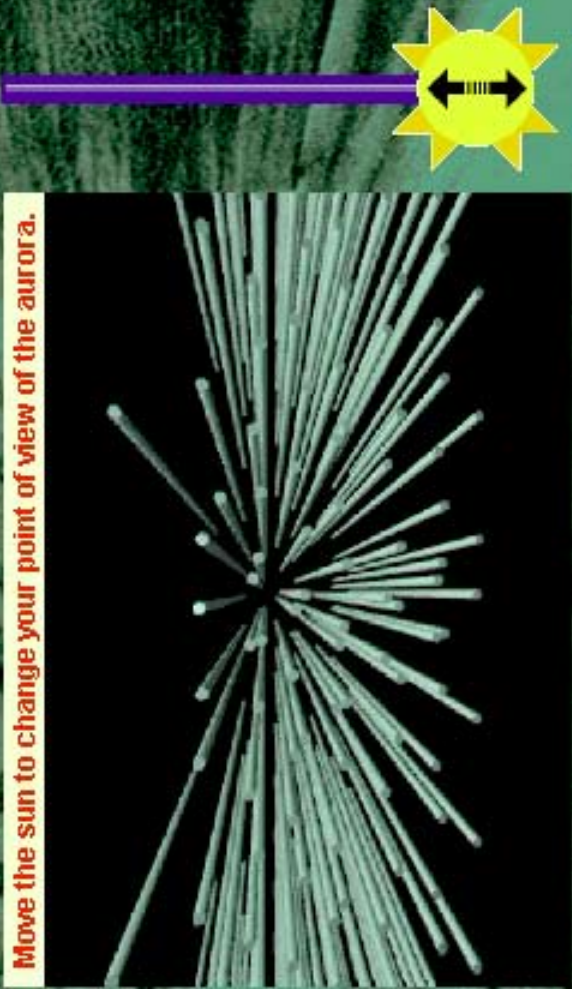


Corona
When aurora rays appear or rayed bands appear directly overhead, they seem spread out in all directions from a central point in the sky.

This shape, called a corona, is an optical illusion.



Move the sun to change your point of view of the aurora.



View from below

Glowing Shapes
AURORATM
ALIVE



Rayed Bands
Late in the evening, a quiet arc can become active. During an aurora substorm, the arc develops folds that look like pleats in a curtain. These folds, called rays, are vertical bars of light aligned with Earth's magnetic field lines. The folded curtain often waves around, then breaks up into rayed bands. Purple can appear on the bottom of the dancing rays and on the front edge of the bands as they move.