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# NASA Astronaut Captures Rare Red Flash Above Storm

## Description

Astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have taken amazing photos of bright flashes above Earth's storms. These flashes are called red sprites and other transient luminous events. They happen very high in the sky, above thunderclouds, and last only a short time.

Most people see lightning during storms. However, some exciting electrical events happen much higher up in the atmosphere. These events can look very different and appear in various colours. Scientists call them Transient Luminous Events (TLEs).

NASA says these flashes can be seen as high as 55 miles or 90 kilometres above Earth. Red sprites can look like upside-down jellyfish. One photo shows a large sprite over a storm near the Texas-Mexico border.

The Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor (ASIM) on the ISS helps scientists study these flashes. It uses special cameras to see very brief electrical events. Researchers hope to learn more about how lightning affects the upper atmosphere. They are also studying terrestrial gamma-ray flashes, which are bursts of radiation linked to lightning.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **transient** //ˈtrænzɪənt// (adjective): lasting for only a short time
2. **luminous** //ˈluːmɪnəs// (adjective): giving off or full of light
3. **sprites** //sprɪts// (noun): quick, bright electrical flashes above storms
4. **atmosphere** //ˈætməsfɪr// (noun): the layer of air around a planet
5. **radiation** //ˌreɪdɪˈeɪʃən// (noun): energy that moves in waves or particles
6. **researchers** //rɪˈsɜːtʃərz// (noun): people who study things to learn more

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What are the bright flashes above Earth's storms called?

Option: Lightning

Option: Red sprites



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Option: Auroras

Option: Comets

2. How high can red sprites be seen above Earth?

Option: 10 miles

Option: 20 miles

Option: 55 miles

Option: 100 miles

3. Which device on the ISS helps study these flashes?

Option: Hubble Space Telescope

Option: Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor (ASIM)

Option: International Space Camera

Option: Solar Observation Module

4. What do scientists call the exciting electrical events that happen high in the atmosphere?

Option: Electromagnetic Pulses

Option: Transient Luminous Events

Option: Atmospheric Phenomena

Option: Cosmic Rays

5. What shape can red sprites resemble?

Option: Stars

Option: Upside-down jellyfish

Option: Clouds

Option: Tornadoes

6. What type of bursts are researchers studying that are linked to lightning?

Option: Solar flares

Option: Terrestrial gamma-ray flashes

Option: Lightning strikes

Option: Radioactive waves

### True-False

7. Red sprites are visible during the daytime.

8. Transient Luminous Events occur at lower altitudes compared to thunderstorms.



9. NASA has taken photos of bright flashes from the International Space Station.
10. The ASIM uses regular cameras to study the flashes.
11. Red sprites last for a long time.
12. Terrestrial gamma-ray flashes are unrelated to lightning.

### Gap-Fill

13. NASA says these flashes can be seen as high as \_\_\_\_\_ miles above Earth.
14. Red sprites can look like upside-down \_\_\_\_\_ .
15. The Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor (ASIM) is on the \_\_\_\_\_ .
16. Scientists call the exciting electrical events Transient \_\_\_\_\_ Events.
17. These flashes happen above \_\_\_\_\_ lasting only a short time.
18. Researchers are studying terrestrial gamma-ray \_\_\_\_\_ linked to lightning.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Red sprites 2. 55 miles 3. Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor (ASIM) 4. Transient Luminous Events 5. Upside-down jellyfish 6. Terrestrial gamma-ray flashes

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 55 14. jellyfish 15. ISS 16. Luminous 17. thunderclouds 18. flashes

### Vocabulary quizzes

#### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What term is used to describe a ship used for travel or work at sea?



- Option: Vessel
- Option: Tram
- Option: Carriage
- Option: Plane

2. Which term refers to a community of living organisms and their physical environment interacting as a system?

- Option: Biome
- Option: Ecosystem
- Option: Habitat
- Option: Niche

3. What do we call a group of organisms that can interbreed and produce fertile offspring?

- Option: Species
- Option: Genus
- Option: Family
- Option: Order

4. What is typically formed from coral and serves as a habitat for many marine species?

- Option: Delta
- Option: Reef
- Option: Estuary
- Option: Lake

5. What type of marine animal is often found attached to rocks and can host clownfish?

- Option: Sea Urchins
- Option: Jellyfish
- Option: Anemones
- Option: Sponges

6. What term describes the process of increasing in size or scope?

- Option: Reduction
- Option: Contraction
- Option: Expansion
- Option: Decline

7. Which type of view or observation is achieved from the air?

- Option: Ground
- Option: Aerial
- Option: Underwater
- Option: Surface

8. What do we call individuals who conduct investigations to discover or revise facts?



- Option: Students
- Option: Researchers
- Option: Educators
- Option: Administrators

9. What is a large mass of ice that moves slowly over land called?

- Option: Iceberg
- Option: Glacier
- Option: Snowfield
- Option: Fjord

10. What term describes a state of being open to harm or damage?

- Option: Resilient
- Option: Vulnerable
- Option: Protected
- Option: Robust

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The \_\_\_\_\_ ecosystem is crucial for supporting various marine species.

12. Many marine conservation initiatives aim to ensure that we can \_\_\_\_\_ the protection of vulnerable species.

13. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the research vessel was necessary to prepare for the upcoming expedition.

14. The organization's press release announced the \_\_\_\_\_ of a new marine exploration project.

15. The team set up \_\_\_\_\_ accommodations while conducting research near the glacier.

16. They are \_\_\_\_\_ outdated equipment to enhance the research process.

17. The night sky was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ sprites dancing across the atmosphere.

18. Many \_\_\_\_\_ species visit the coastal area during migration seasons.



19. The Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ plays a crucial role in regulating temperature and supporting life.
20. High levels of ultraviolet \_\_\_\_\_ can affect both marine and terrestrial life.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The underwater seep is critical for nutrient cycling in the marine ecosystem.
22. The press is essential for disseminating information about scientific discoveries.
23. The new vessel has advanced features that enhance its operational capabilities.
24. The research team had to wait in a queue before boarding the vessel for the expedition.
25. They planned an expedition to study the effects of climate change on coastal ecosystems.
26. Construction of the new research facility is underway near the coastal area.
27. The glacier melts are impacting sea levels and coastal environments.
28. Many species in the ocean are classified as vulnerable due to climate change.
29. The environment is heavily influenced by both natural and human activities.
30. The luminous sprites observed during the expedition were stunning and ethereal.

**Answer**

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**Multiple Choice:** 1. Vessel 2. Ecosystem 3. Species 4. Reef 5. Anemones 6. Expansion 7. Aerial 8. Researchers 9. Glacier 10. Vulnerable

**Gap-Fill:** 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.

**Matching sentence:** 1. seep 2. press 3. features 4. queue 5. expedition 6. construction 7. glacier 8. vulnerable 9. environment 10. sprites

## CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL1

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