

NOVA: MAGNETIC STORM

NAME: _____

*Use sentences.

1. What does the Earth's magnetic field protect us from?
2. *Why was there no trace of magnetism in the rocks of Hellas and Argyre on Mars?
3. *What does Mario believe would happen to Earth's atmosphere if our magnetic field were to disappear?
4. *What has pottery made during the past 5,000 years shown us about Earth's magnetic field over the past 300 years?
5. *What is one possible reason why Mars lost its magnetic field?
6. By examining magnetism in the volcanic rock that makes up the Hawaiian Islands, geologists have determined that our magnetic field reversed itself about _____ years ago, and that (on average) it reverses once every _____ years.
7. *What does Gary's model suggest might follow the recent decline in our magnetic field?
8. *What is so special about some of the layers of volcanic rock that make up Steen's Mountain in Oregon?
9. *How might a weakened magnetic field affect people?
10. *What will be unusual about the auroras during a period when Earth's magnetic field is weak?