**Task 4.** Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17 - 22). There are two choices you do not need to use.

## The Aurora Borealis

*A new book explores the many myths and legends attached to the magical displays in the skies we know as the aurora borealis. Adrian Bridge reports.*

The Northern Lights, (**17**)_____, have fascinated people for centuries. To the ancient Greeks, the lights were a sign of Aurora, the goddess of the dawn, riding her chariot across the sky to announce the arrival of the sun. But many other cultures also had their own myths and interpretations of the phenomenon.

In a recently published book, Life Beneath the Northern Lights, a research team led by Lizzy Pattison explores the legends and lifestyles of the Sami people. Some Sami still believe that the lights emanate from their ancestors and must be treated with respect. Even today, (**18**)_____, few dare to whistle in case the lights carry them away.

Other cultures saw the lights as fire-breathing dragons, ghosts of enemies, or merry dancers. While these myths may not be scientifically accurate, (**19**)_____.

Scientifically speaking, the Northern Lights occur (**20**)_____and emit burning gases that produce different coloured lights. The lights occur in an oval-shaped area above the magnetic pole, and the best sightings are away from artificial light and moonlight.

The book includes a chapter on scientific explanations and practical advice on (**21**)_____. Jonny Cooper, founder of Off the Map Travel, helped with the book by flying the research team to northern Sweden so they could experience the phenomenon firsthand.

Standing under the night sky and watching the lights can be a powerful experience, and it's easy to understand (**22**)_____. While we now have scientific explanations, learning about the myths and stories that have grown up around the Northern Lights can enhance our appreciation of this natural wonder.

**A** what led to this

**B** when solar particles enter the Earth's atmosphere

**C** making the most of it

**D** they still fire the imagination and enhance the experience of seeing the lights

**E** also known as the Aurora Borealis

**F** how to capture the lights on film

**G** if caught outside during a display

**H** why our ancestors were fascinated by them

LIVEWORKSHEETS