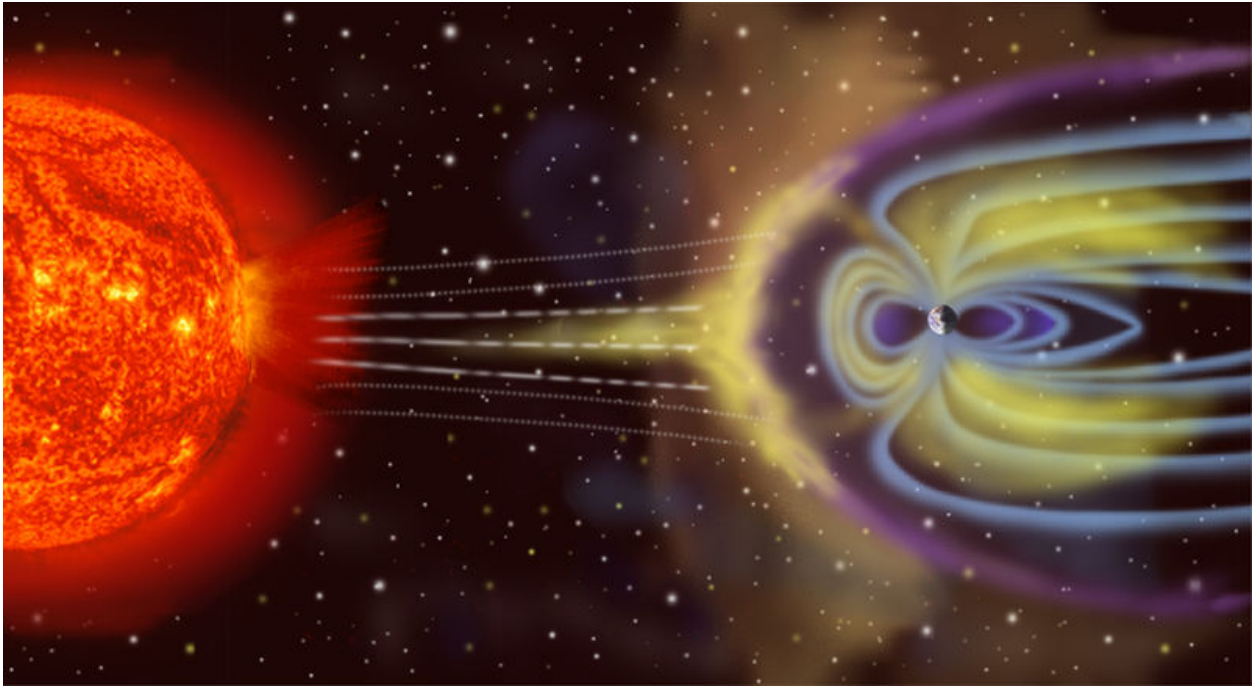


- The earth's magnetic field shields/protects all life from deadly solar radiation:



- The simplest (single-cell) life forms appeared on earth ~ 3.8 *billion* years ago, photosynthetic organisms ~ 3 *billion* years ago. Photosynthesis drove *oxygenation* of earth's initially iron-rich oceans – iron oxide precipitated (i.e. rusted) out/deposited on ocean floor – leaving sedimentary banded iron formations:

