

Northern Lights Storybook



Learn about the aurora by reading stories from elders, and write your own northern lights stories!



Materials Needed:

[Northern Lights story sheets](#), construction paper, scissors or hole punch, yarn, colored pencils or markers, glue, other decorating materials (sequins, ribbons, tissue paper, etc).

Instructions:

Step 1: Print the story sheets. In your printer settings, choose the Booklet option, and print on both sides.

Step 2: Place both story sheets on a piece of construction paper. Make sure Annie Conger's story is on top.

Step 3: Fold the pages in half. Use scissors or a hole punch to make two holes on the folded edge, about 3 inches (7.5 cm) apart.

Step 4: Thread a piece of yarn through the holes. Turn the booklet over and tie the yarn on the back to hold the booklet together.

Step 5: Decorate your storybook. Use any craft supplies you have available. Be creative!

Step 6: Use the page in the back of the booklet to write or draw your own stories about the northern lights.



Listen and watch Iñupiaq elders tell these stories:

culturalconnections.gi.alaska.edu/multimedia/elder.html

Note: Some stories include references to death or may be unsettling for some readers. Adults may want to preview the stories, or read them along with children.

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Stories of the Northern Lights

People across the world tell stories about the northern lights.

Stories about the northern lights are used for many purposes, such as explaining aspects of the natural world, teaching children how to behave well, demonstrating how to use the lights for navigation and weather prediction, and entertaining children and adults.



Terry Zaperach / NASA



Illustration by Eugence C. and Mary Lou Totten, from *Tales of Ticasuk: Eskimo legends & stories*

In Iñupiaq cultures of northern Alaska, the northern lights are the spirits of ancestors, playing a game of kickball in the sky. The lights ripple and swirl with the movements of the game. The Iñupiaq word for the northern lights is *kiuguyat* or *kiugiyaq*.

In many Athabascan cultures, elders say that caribou can be found beneath the northern lights. Northern lights can also be dangerous; red northern lights are a sign of bloodshed or war.

Stories about the northern lights vary across cultures, communities, and individuals. The stories collected here are a small sample of how some cultures view the northern lights.



Elmer Goodwin

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Grace Pullock



Ask your friends and family to share their stories about the northern lights. Write and draw your own story!

Information from the Geophysical Institute's Learning Through Cultural Connections project; and Chris Cannon, UAF.