



Create Aurora Art

Create your own artwork inspired by the northern lights!

Materials Needed:

White paper or cardstock, black paper, colored chalk, scissors, tissue (optional).

Instructions:

Step 1: Cut a strip of white paper or cardstock in a wavy aurora shape. This will be your stencil.

Step 2: Color the top edge of the stencil with colored chalk.

Step 3: Place the colored stencil on your black paper, chalk side up. Smudge the chalk onto the black paper using your finger or a tissue.

Step 4: Repeat using different colors to fill the sky with the colors of the aurora.

Step 5: Add a cabin, trees, campfires, or other things you might see under the northern lights. Be creative!

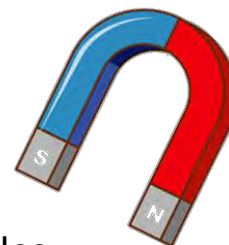


Activity adapted from Cultural Connections Kit, UAF Geophysical Institute: culturalconnections.gi.alaska.edu

Explore the Northern Lights!

Experiment With Magnets

Earth has a strong, protective magnetic field. When charged particles from the sun get caught in Earth's magnetic field, they follow the magnetic field lines toward the North and South Poles. This is why the aurora is most visible near the poles.



Try playing with magnets to see how they work! Here are some ideas:

- What objects in your home are magnetic? Hold a magnet up to different materials to find out!
- Every magnet has a north and a south pole. Try placing two magnets together with the same poles facing each other. What happens? Now try it with two opposite poles!
- Put two magnets together to create one long magnet. How many poles does it have?

Caution: Always supervise children around magnets. Never put magnets near electronic devices.

Stories of the Northern Lights



People around the world tell stories about the northern lights. Ask your family and friends to share stories about the aurora. You could even write or draw your own aurora story!

Right: Elder Fannie Akpik from Utqiaġvik, Alaska.

Watch Iñupiaq elders share stories about the northern lights:
culturalconnections.gi.alaska.edu/multimedia/elder.html

Become a Citizen Scientist

Help track the aurora by reporting sightings and observations with the **Aurorasaurus** project: aurorasaurus.org

