

# Northern Lights Storybook



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

Materials E W

[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 o

# 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

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 *iskiuyat* or *kiuyaq*.

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.

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

Listen and watch Iñupiaq elders tell stories  
about the northern lights:

[culturalconnections.gi.alaska.edu/multimedia/elder.html](http://culturalconnections.gi.alaska.edu/multimedia/elder.html)

Elmer Goodwin

Grace Pullock

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

