

Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)

6th Grade
Watercolor Paintings

What are Northern Lights?

- Collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere.
- Known as 'Aurora borealis' in the North and 'Aurora australis' in the south.



Legends

- 'Aurora borealis', the lights of the northern hemisphere, means 'dawn of the north'.
- 'Aurora australis' means 'dawn of the south'.
- In Roman myths, Aurora was the goddess of the dawn.
- In medieval times, the occurrences of auroral displays were seen as harbingers of war or famine.
- The Maori of New Zealand shared a belief with many northern people of Europe and North America that the lights were reflections from torches or campfires.
- The Menominee Indians of Wisconsin believed that the lights indicated the location of manabai'wok (giants) who were the spirits of great hunters and fishermen.
- The Inuit of Alaska believed that the lights were the spirits of the animals they hunted: the seals, salmon, deer and beluga whales. (THE LEGEND OF SEDNA)
- Other aboriginal peoples believed that the lights were the spirits of their people.

Inuit Prints of Northern Lights









Watercolor

Create a watercolor painting of the Northern Lights

Use salt and rubbing alcohol to enhance painting

****If you want to add trees, people, houses, mountains, animals, etc..**

- cut black construction paper to add details
- oil pastel to add details
- use sharpie to add details
- etc.





