

## Unit 1 - Write an Aurora Story

## VISUAL AID: "Sounds"

Artwork by Rie Muñoz



### LEGEND

### Sounds

Inupiat elders in **Noatak**, Alaska, **whistle and holler** at the aurora, which they say sometimes makes it swoop down to Earth. Athabascan Indian elders living along Alaska's **Koyukuk River** sometimes beat metal pans to catch the aurora's attention. In **Canada**, Native elders whisper at the aurora, or spit at it to make the colors run together or suddenly change form.

LEGENDS

**AURORA  
ALIVE**

Artwork by Rie Muñoz



## LEGEND

## Dancing Spirits

Native elders in **Greenland** say the Northern Lights are created by the laughing spirits of children dancing for joy in the night sky. Native elders on Alaska's lower **Yukon River** say different animal spirits create the aurora, and Chippewa Indians in central **Canada** say a bright aurora is made when many deer run together in the sky.



LEGENDS  
**AURORA  
ALIVE**



Artwork by Rie Muñoz

**LEGEND Soccer**

Many Native elders in **Alaska, Canada, Denmark, Greenland, and Siberia** say the Northern Lights are created by spirits playing soccer in the sky. When the players run, they leave streaks of color that can be seen from Earth as the aurora. These spirits use a walrus head for a soccer ball.

**LEGEND**

Inupiat elders in **Noatak** and Yup'ik elders on **Nunivak Island** have the opposite idea. They say Northern Lights are created by spirits playing soccer with a human skull.

**LEGENDS**  
**AURORA**  
**ALIVE**

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## VISUAL AID: “Fire”

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**LEGEND** Fire

An **Algonkin** legend describes the aurora as the reflection of fires burning near the north pole. Some **Norwegian** Vikings believed the aurora was created by fires burning around the Arctic Ocean. The Makah Indians in **Washington** said the fires of the aurora were used by northern dwarfs to boil blubber, and the Mandan Indians of **North Dakota** said the aurora fire was used by northern medicine men to simmer enemies in enormous pots.

**LEGENDS**  
**AURORA**  
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## VISUAL AID: “Battles”

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### LEGEND

### Battles

In medieval days, people in **France** thought a red aurora was a sign of blood and battle — a bad omen of disasters to come. The Eyak and Tlingit Indians of **Southeastern Alaska** believed the aurora was a sign that someone would die soon in a battle. Inupiat elders in **Barrow**, Alaska, carried knives to keep the aurora away from them.



LEGENDS  
**AURORA  
ALIVE**