

Northern Lights Art Projects

The Northern Lights have been the inspiration for artists across the globe. From visual artists to storytellers, these light displays have inspired artists for centuries. Bring some northern lights inspiration into your classroom with these project ideas!

Northern Lights Watercolors

Materials

- Watercolor Paper
- Watercolor Paint
- Water
- Paint Brushes
- Coarse and Fine Salt
- Painters Tape



Directions:

1. Tape your watercolor paper to a desk or board, so that it doesn't slide
2. Mix water color paints with water, until they are fairly watery.
3. Brush the whole paper with water
4. Once the paper is wet, start painting! Use a streaky motion to create a northern lights style look
5. Once finished painting, sprinkle salt onto the paper- this will give a streaking effect.
6. After the paper is dry, add in landscape with black water color paint.

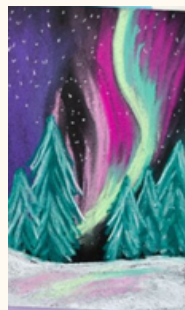
Northern Lights Chalk Art

Materials

- Black construction paper
- Chalk Pastels
- Cotton Balls
- White Printer Paper
- Scissors

Directions:

1. Cut out the shape of a landscape (mountains, trees, ext.) out of white printer paper.
2. Lay the white paper on top of the black construction paper.
3. Color over the stencil onto the black construction paper with the chalk pastels.
4. Repeat with a variety of colors.
5. Use the cotton balls to rub the chalk to create the streaks and swirls of the aurora.
6. Remove the white stencil.
7. Use chalk pastels to add in detail to the rest of your picture!



Northern Lights Galaxy Jars

Materials

- Mason Jar or Clear Cup
- Cotton Balls
- Glow-in-the-Dark Paint
- Various Colors
- Water
- Glitter (Optional)



Directions:

1. Fill the jar ~3/4 full with cotton balls. Fluff them to create layers.
2. In small bowls, mix glow-in-the-dark paint with a little water.
3. Use a brush or dropper to dab different colored paint onto the cotton balls inside the jar.
4. Add glitter if desired.
5. Charge the jar under bright light or a blacklight, then turn off the lights to see your aurora!

Northern Lights Stories

Stories have been told about the Northern Lights for centuries. These stories live on in the oral traditions of indigenous peoples around the world. Check out these resources to bring the stories of the Northern Lights into your classroom.

Northern Lights Stories and Interviews

- [Native Stargazers: Exploring Alaska's Indigenous Aurora Borealis](#)
- [EarthSky: Mythology of the Northern and Southern Lights](#)
- [Interview with Waasknodekwe - Northern Lights Woman](#)

Picture Books

- [The Forever Sky by Thomas Peacock](#)
- [Moon Song, Michaela Goade](#)
- [The Lights that Dance in the Night by Yuval Zommer](#)
- [SkySisters by Jan Bourdeau Waboose, illustrated by Brian Deines](#)