## AURORA BOREALIS

"Aurora Borealis" is derived from the Roman goddess of dawn, "Aurora" and the Greek name for north wind, "Borealis". In modern times, we reason that this flow of color and light is caused by excited electrons in the earth's atmosphere. However, in earlier days, when humans were more spread out and isolated, our imaginations ran wild attempting to explain the light show.

Northern European cultures speculated that the lights were female warriors, known as Valkyries, whose armor was shining as the torches they carried guided fallen Vikings to the legendary heaven, Valhalla.

In China, spectators believed that the lights were dragons engaging in a heated battle between good and evil. In Japan, it was believed that a child conceived under the lights would be born with good looks, strong wit, and good fortune.

Native American cultures believed a great number of things, varying from region to region.

The Cree believed that the Aurora was a part of life, and it was the spirits of the dead attempting to communicate with their loved ones who they had left behind. Algonquin tribes believed that the lights were caused by Nanahbozo, their god of creation. They believed the lights were cast from fires built by Nanahbozo, and it was him saying he was watching over them.

