

Aurora: A Tale of the Northern Lights  
By Mindy Dwyer

End of Book Glossary

**Arctic Circle:** circle of latitude at 66 ½ degrees, marking the southernmost point where the sun can be seen for a full 24-hour period.

**Aurora Borealis:** streams of colored light -- shades of green, blue, white, purple -- that shimmer in the dark night sky of the earth's polar regions. Also called Northern Lights.

**Boreal Wind:** a cold northern wind

**Caribou:** a large deer of the northern North America related to the reindeer, having large palmate antlers (meaning that they spread outwards as fingers on a hand), broad flat hooves, a heavy double coat, and short ears and tail.

**Midnight Sun:** 24 hours of daylight occurring at the polar regions, above the arctic circle.

**Summer Solstice:** a day around June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first day of summer and the longest day of the year, when the sun is then closest to the northern hemisphere of the earth.

**Tundra:** a level treeless plain found in the Arctic, with permanently frozen ground covered by black, mucky soil. Plants are dwarfed, but mosses and lichens grow thickly, and there are many miniature wildflowers.