

Have you ever wondered what those rainbows are in the sky circling the sun? Well, those are called sun dogs. In the winter when it is very cold a sundog appears in the sky. You may even see sun pillars. Sun halos also appear during the winter when it's cold. Explanations of sundogs exist in Greek mythology and indigenous cultures .

Sundogs are actually called a mock sun. They are dimmer and fuzzier too; they create a circle around the sun at a certain time of the day. There is a hexagonal crystal that they shine through. That's how they appear; sundogs are usually rainbow, especially when cirrus clouds are near. Reds are always facing toward the sun while blues are facing away from the sun. Depending on sky conditions you can maybe only see one sundog. Approximately at 22 degrees at about the distance of both your fists away from the sun. When there are more ice crystals than usual sundogs can bend around the sun and create a sun halo .

Usually on the rare occasion you might see a vertical shaft of light in the sky that's what you call a sun pillar. When a sun pillar happens that means ice crystals are slowly falling from the sky and air resistance causes the crystals to lay flat as they flutter to the ground not like sun halos the crystals do refract and or bend light and instead they reflect the rays from the sun and when these crystals align they create a sun pillar. In Greek mythology sun dogs were actually seen as the dogs that Zeus would walk and they also believed that they would bring good luck to whoever saw them. In Western Canada some of the indigenous cultures, like the Stoney and Nakota, attribute sundogs to being a sign of hope and purpose .

Is there a little piece of rainbow hanging in the sky next to the sun? How about a strange circle of light around it? You may be seeing a sun dog or sun halo . This

happens when a certain time of day is around there are sundogs or sun halos. The light bends through a crystal in the sky.

Something that sundogs mean to me is that they are super cool because they are rainbows that are circling the sun. What they remind me of are souls flying through the sky. Why it's special to learn about this is that they are memorable to learn about because they are a part of Saskatchewan and that when you see them you know what it is. Wasn't it really cool to learn about sundogs in Greek mythology and how they were created and that there are sun pillars and indigenous beliefs?