



Cricket®

Faces

**WILD
ABOUT
ALASKA**

SEPTEMBER 2021

MYSTERY PHOTO



↑ **Do you know what this is?**

See page 48 for the answer.

← **About the Cover**

Grizzly bears, also called brown bears, are abundant in Alaska. Salmon is one of their favorite foods. David Rasmus/Shutterstock.com

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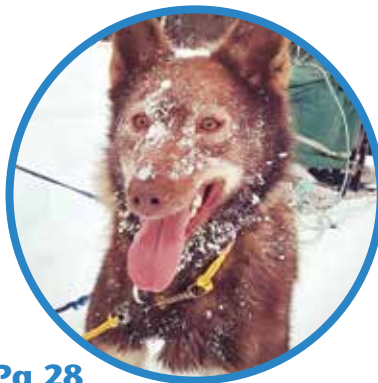
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Alaska is the biggest U.S. state by size. It's known for its majestic scenery and abundance of wildlife. Here are five fascinating facts about "the Last Frontier" to get you started.

Can I run with
the dogs?



I wouldn't
Anchorage it.



Alaska is one of the
best places to view
the Northern Lights.

1 With a total land area of 571,951 square miles, Alaska is bigger than Texas, California, and Montana *combined*. The state of Rhode Island could fit into Alaska more than 420 times.

2 The United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million in 1867—that comes to about 2 cents per acre. Originally, many thought the deal was foolish, but when gold was discovered in 1898, many who had criticized the purchase changed their tune.

3 Alaska's state flag was designed by a 13-year-old boy named Benny Benson. The simple design—the North Star and the Big Dipper on a blue background—became the official flag of the Alaskan Territory and later the state flag when Alaska became the 49th state in 1959.

4 A relay of dog teams carried life-saving medicine from Anchorage to Nome in 1825. They saved Nome from a diphtheria epidemic. The Iditarod, an annual sled dog race, largely follows the route this relay took.

5 Gold miners brought sourdough starters (dough filled with active yeast) to Alaska during the late 1800s. The miners stored their starters in blankets to keep the yeast alive. Some Alaskan restaurants claim that the sourdough bread they serve can be traced to the starters the miners cultivated.

AT A GLANCE





DATE OF STATEHOOD: January 3, 1959

AREA: 665,384 square miles (total land and water)

CAPITAL: Juneau

HIGHEST POINT: Denali, 20,310 feet

POPULATION: 731,545 (2019 estimate)

NICKNAME: The Last Frontier or Land of the Midnight Sun

STATE MOTTO: "North to the Future"

AVERAGE JANUARY TEMPERATURE: 5°F

AVERAGE JULY TEMPERATURE: 55°F

NATURAL RESOURCES: coal, fish, forests, gold, gravel, natural gas, oil, molybdenum, sand, tin, water, zinc

AGRICULTURE: beef, eggs, grains, greenhouse products, milk, potatoes, reindeer



I hope you
don't get a
cold.



Polar bears are the world's largest bears.

THE POLAR BEAR

ALASKA'S SEA BEAR

by Pat Betteley

PAWtrait of a Polar Bear

The polar bear is perfectly suited to live in the cold, harsh tundra of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia. Standing up to 10 feet tall, it is the world's largest bear and the Arctic's top predator. Its scientific name, *Ursus maritimus*, means "sea bear" for good reason. The polar bear spends much of its life in, around, or on the Arctic Ocean. A skilled swimmer, the polar bear can swim at a top speed of 40 kilometers per hour, paddling with its front paws while holding its hind legs flat like a rudder. Its paws are slightly webbed.

On land, its dinner plate-sized paws act like natural snowshoes when it walks on snow and ice. The polar bear is built to stay warm. The water-repellent outer layer of its fur is

hollow and reflects light, giving it a white color, which helps camouflage it in the snow. The skin underneath its fur is actually black. (You can see this yourself from its black nose.) There is a 4-inch layer of fat below the surface of the bear's skin to trap body heat in the freezing Arctic environment. No cuddly teddy bear, the polar bear has quite the bite thanks to its 42 razor-sharp teeth, jagged back teeth, and canines, which are larger than a grizzly's. Other adaptations are a third eyelid to help protect the bear's eyes from the elements, a blue tongue, and an excellent sniffer. The polar bear's sensitive nose can smell a seal on ice 20 miles away.



Seeing double! Polar bear litters consist of one to three cubs.

This carnivore gives its SEAL of approval mainly to ringed and bearded seals. These seals provide them with large amounts of fat, which polar bears need to survive. The crafty bears rest silently at a seal's breathing hole in the ice, waiting for the seal to surface, or pounce through the roof of the den to capture young seals. Polar bears also hunt by swimming beneath the ice. They spend more than 50% of their time hunting, catching maybe one or two seals for every 10 they hunt. Although they don't hibernate, polar bears take a "winter sleep." Their body

functions do slow down, but they can easily wake up. While food is scarce for other types of bears in the winter, polar bears have seals to eat all winter long, so they don't need to hibernate.

When it comes to dens, males and females are polar opposites. Males don't live in dens, but pregnant females do. In the fall, females make dens in earth and snowbanks along the coast. They need the "heated" space to protect their tiny cubs. Dens can be 38°F warmer than the outside temperature. Litters of one to three cubs are born and fed during the winter sleep. At birth, babies are only 1.5 pounds—about the size of a stick of butter.

They are born hairless with their eyes closed. Mother's milk contains 35% fat to help the cubs grow quickly. By the time mother bear emerges from her den in spring, her cubs weigh more than 20 pounds. The tumbling "cub scouts" follow her out into the bright world, ready to explore and learn to hunt.

BEARly Making It

It's lonely at the top—of the food chain. Polar bears eat everything, and nothing eats them, (except for native hunters). So why has their Hudson Bay population declined by 20% in the past 20 years? Climate change, melting sea ice, and a decline in the number of seals are taking their toll. In 2011, a female swam for nine days nonstop to get to sea ice, losing her cub along the way. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) predicts that two-thirds of all polar bears will disappear by 2050.

BARE FACTS

- » **Scientific name:** *Ursus maritimus*
- » **Diet:** carnivore
- » **Size:** head and body average 7.25 to 8 feet
- » **Weight:** 900 to 1,600 pounds
- » **Habitats:** Arctic Sea, sea ice, coastal areas
- » **Status:** vulnerable



Alaska is the
largest U.S.
state.



by Marcia Amidon Lusted

Do you know where the state of Alaska is? Because Alaska is outside of the contiguous (connected) United States, many people aren't familiar with it. Because of its size and location, it's often shown separately on maps of the United States, along with Hawaii, and so it isn't easy to understand exactly where Alaska is. It isn't even possible to drive to Alaska without going through Canada. And yet Alaska has a rich and important history. It was the 49th state to join the United States, and it is the largest state in the Union. It is known for lumber, fishing, furs, and oil. And it was the site of one of the biggest gold rushes in U.S. history. Welcome to Alaska.

Anchorage is the most populous city in Alaska. About 40% of the entire state population lives in this southern city.



A cruise ship sits at port in Juneau, Alaska.



I gotta get my Bering Strait.



Fishing is one of Alaska's main industries.



Prince William Sound on the south coast of Alaska is dotted with glaciers.



The fishing city of Sitka is home to about 9,000 people.



If you look at a map of the United States and find the West Coast, Alaska is located in the extreme northwest, north of the state of Washington and bordering the Canadian province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Alaska's borders also include the Beaufort Sea and Arctic Ocean to the north, the Bering Sea and the Chukchi Sea to the west, and the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Alaska to the south. With a land area of 571,951 square miles, Alaska is bigger than Texas, California, and Montana combined, and the state of Rhode Island could fit into Alaska more than 420 times. That's a lot of land, but there aren't many people living there. Alaska is the most sparsely populated state in the country and has the third-smallest population of any state.

Alaska has a reputation for being cold, which is mostly true. Most of the state is covered with a

layer of frozen soil called permafrost, which never thaws. Alaska is also home to the largest glacier in North America, the Bering Glacier, which covers 2,250 miles. The state can also boast Mount Denali, the tallest mountain in North America. However, Alaska isn't all cold and barren. It also has more than 40 active volcanoes, areas of flat tundra, taiga forests of evergreen trees, and many lakes and meadows. Alaska also experiences frequent earthquakes, about 5,000 a year.

The first inhabitants of Alaska, the Na-Dene and Inuit-Aleuts, arrived about 15,000 years ago, coming across from Siberia during the Ice Age on an ancient land bridge over the Bering Strait. When the Ice Age ended, the ocean waters rose and covered the bridge, trapping those people, who became the first Alaskans. In 1728, a Danish explorer named Vitus

FUN FACT

» Alaska's state flag was designed by a 13-year-old boy named Benny Benson. Benny designed the flag as part of a contest. His simple design of the North Star and the Big Dipper was chosen in 1926 and continues to represent our 49th state.

Bering mapped the area, which is why it is named the Bering Strait. Bering returned in 1741 with a Russian expedition and made the first landing, claiming that he “discovered” the area. By 1784, the first Russian settlement in Alaska had been established on Kodiak Island at Three Saints Bay.

In 1867, the United States Secretary of State William Seward arranged for the United States to buy the area of Alaska from the Russians for \$7,200,000. That may sound like a huge amount of money, but because Alaska had so much area, it ended up costing about 2 cents for every acre of land. (One acre is about the size of one football field.) However, people thought it was a bad bargain, and it became known as “Seward’s Folly.” That changed in 1898, during the Gold Rush, when gold was discovered in Alaska. More than 30,000 people flocked to Alaska to look for gold. With the additional discoveries of oil and natural gas in 1968, and the construction of the Alaskan Pipeline to carry the oil, Alaska has contributed billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

Alaska’s culture reflects the indigenous peoples who have lived there since long before the Russians and Americans arrived. These groups included the Inuit, Aleuts, and Native Americans.



A mother and cub relax as the sun sets in Alaska.

A man pans for gold in the early 1900s.



A woman wears a traditional coat.



The two main groups are the Inupiat and Yupik, and they each have their own language and culture. The Inupiat live in the north and northwest parts of Alaska and speak Inupiaq, and the Yupik live in the south and southwest and speak Yupik. The major Native American groups include the Alaskan Athabaskan in the central part of the state, and the Tlingit, Tsimshian, and Haida in the southeast. The Aleuts live on the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak Island, the lower Alaska and Kenai Peninsulas, and Prince William Sound. Many of Alaska’s indigenous people still live in settlements along rivers and coastal areas and still live like their ancestors, hunting and fishing the traditional way.

Alaska is a place with vast areas of unsettled land and few people. This has helped it earn the nickname “The Last Frontier,” and like any frontier, Alaska is a land of possibilities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In The Arctic

The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet. The regions around the North Pole are “ground zero” for climate change, giving the rest of the world a snapshot of events to come. These events include shifts in the ranges of plants and animals, melting snow and ice, violent weather, disruptions in the food web,

disease, and extinction. Read on for descriptions of nature-out-of-sync with the climate, sprinkled with a few silly subtitles to lighten up a serious subject.

Strange Change in the Range

These days in America’s northernmost city—Barrow, Alaska—temperatures have warmed several degrees over the past few decades. The regions

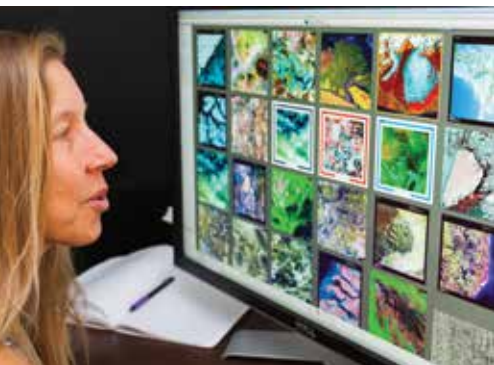
in which plants and animals can survive is changing. Many species are able to survive farther north than they previously could. For example, trees have spread into the tundra, where there used to be only low-growing plants with shallow roots that could live in **permafrost**. Less tundra means reduced habitat for caribou (reindeer), Arctic foxes, and snowy owls—the main food sources for local hunters.

THE C A L E

by Pat Betteley



Polar bears are feeling the effects of climate change.



A scientist examines satellite images of the Arctic.

Strange events are happening throughout northern Alaska. Villagers report so many new kinds of birds showing up that they need a guidebook to identify them. Fish species from warmer waters are getting caught in local fishermen's nets. New insects that can survive in warmer temperatures are falling from the sky, such as bark beetles that kill trees and flies that make caribou sick. Tundra lakes that provide drinking water and nesting grounds for migrating birds are disappearing. Without ice to hold them up, river banks are eroding, filling the waterways with silt that causes local hunters'



Three majestic glaciers calve into the waters of Prince William Sound.

boats to run aground. In Arctic coastal cities, many people are moving their homes miles inland. Violent storms are battering their shores because the ice that used to protect them has melted. The sea ice is getting thinner and arriving later each year. Local leaders and conservationists worry about the opening of shipping lanes through the Northwest Passage (shipping routes through Arctic waters that used to be frozen). They are afraid of too many ships, tourists, and oil spills, and of injuries to animals they depend on for food.

Hubbub in the Grub Hub (Disruptions in the Food Web)

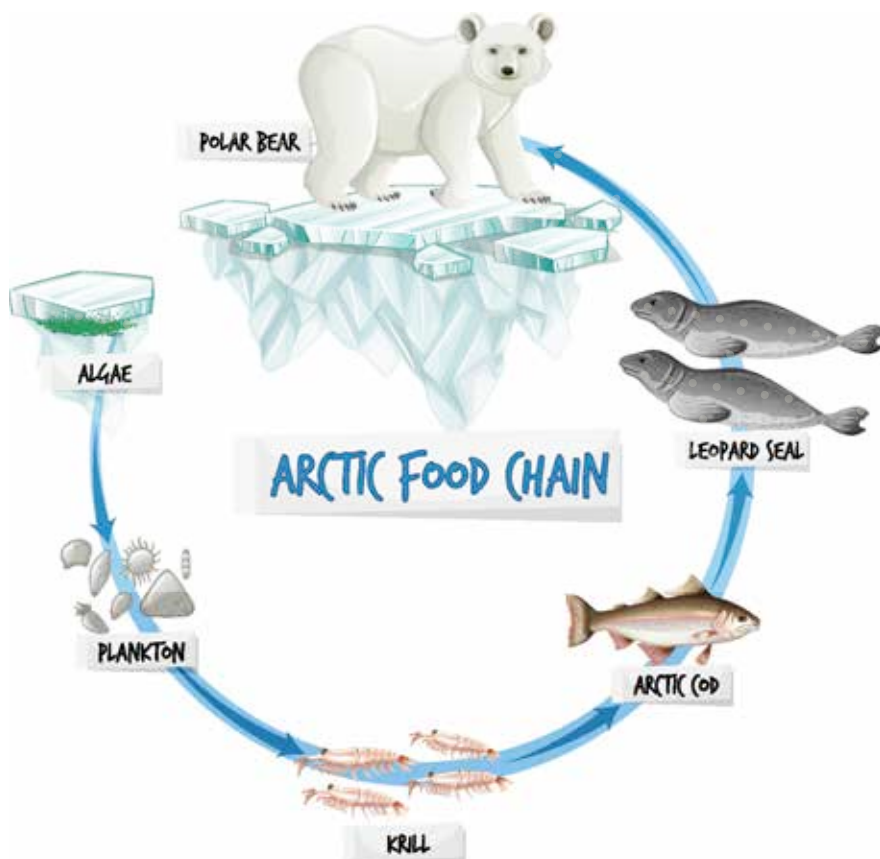
Summer sea ice in the Arctic shrank by nearly 40% between 1978 and 2007. Scientists predict that the entire Arctic will be ice-free in the summer beginning between 2040 and 2060.

Unfortunately, as sea ice melts, the algae that grows underneath it has no place to grow. "If there are no ice algae, then there are no zooplankton, no fish, no seals, no polar bears," says Lars Chresten Lund-Hansen, a sea ice ecologist at Denmark's Aarhus University.



Signs mark where the Exit Glacier extended to in 1926 and 2005. The glacier has receded by more than a mile since 1815.





Zooplankton include microscopic plants and animals and small, shrimp-like krill that feed on ice algae. They are prey for fish and bowhead whales. “The bowheads that migrate through that area are an important food source for the local people. They may not gather there anymore if zooplankton communities change,” says National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries scientist Dave Kimmel.

Polar cod are the most plentiful fish in the Arctic. They thrive there because their blood contains an “antifreeze” that allows them to survive in sub-zero waters. Enter Arctic warming. With their sea habitats disappearing, cod numbers are decreasing and

affecting other species that rely on them for food. As the water temperatures warm, sub-arctic species will be able to move north and compete for food.

Ringed seals are the smallest and most common Arctic seal, named for the little light-colored circles scattered throughout the darker hairs on their backs. They are well adapted to living in ice-covered areas. In late winter and early spring, females give birth to pups on the ice in snow caves that protect them from predators and extreme cold. Earlier snowmelt and winter rains are pushing more pups out of their shelters before they’re able to survive in the open.



It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change.”

— Charles Darwin

Polar bears hunt seal pups in their dens as easy and important springtime prey. Earlier sea ice breakup means fewer seals, so the bears move to land earlier in the summer. From there, they must walk and swim greater distances to find food, using up to five times the energy they would use hunting seals on sea ice.

“A polar bear would need to consume approximately 1.5 caribou, 37 Arctic char, 74 snow geese, 216 snow goose eggs (i.e., 54 nests with four eggs per clutch) or 3 million crowberries to equal the digestible energy available in the blubber of one adult ringed seal,” says Dr. Anthony Pagano, a scientific advisor to Polar Bears International.

Although the survival of plants and animals in the Arctic food web is threatened by dramatic climate-related events, some folks are taking the quick changes in stride.

“We may have to learn some new weather patterns,” says Richard Glenn, Barrow boat operator. “But we always have.”

by Jennifer Buchet

Alaskan Eats & Treats





Don't be
so crabby!

When you think of typical Alaskan foods, do you imagine a table brimming with Baked Alaska and platters of Eskimo Pie? How about bowls of Klondike bars? You can't get more Alaskan than that.

Or can you?

Alaska is known around the world for its fabulous seafood and delicious game meats, not to mention its wild berries and gigantic veg. Grab your appetite and a big plate—you're going to need it.

Feasts of the Frontier

Alaska has some of the most expensive food prices in the country—a gallon of milk can cost more than \$4 and a bag of chips costs \$6. It's not that surprising, given the state's location and rugged environment. Living off the land and sea is common for many, especially those outside of the big cities.

Pristine waterways provide a bounty of sustenance, from seal and whale to halibut, cod, and shellfish. The vast woodlands and tundra are home to wild game, from rabbits and porcupines to deer, caribou, and moose. There's also ample produce to gather if you know where to look, including seaweed, cranberries, blueberries, rhubarb, and *pushki*, a wild celery.

"Winter vegetables," such as rutabaga, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, and cabbages, thrive in Alaska's cooler climate. Plus, with almost 18 hours of non-stop sunlight during the summer, plants grow and grow...and grow some more.

Hunters rarely let anything go to waste, especially animal fat. *Maktaq* or *muktuk* and *akutaq* are two popular, traditional foods that



The fishing industry generates more than \$5 billion according to the state's Resource Development Council.

once were considered survival foods. Muktuk is made from whale blubber, or fat, along with the skin. It has a nutty, oily taste when it's eaten raw, but it's usually salted or fried and then dipped into sauces like soy or ketchup. Akutaq is the original name for "Eskimo ice cream." Mixed together, seal fat, snow, and wild berries create a cool and hearty whipped treat. These days, the fat is often replaced with frozen yogurt or ice cream.

Unofficial "Official" State Foods

Alaska doesn't have an official state dish, but it does have an official fish. It's no surprise that the giant king salmon holds the crown. Alaska is renowned for its five fabulous salmons. *Chinook*, or king salmon, is the largest of all and has a rich buttery flavor. Silver, or *coho*, is the second largest of the five. If you've ever dined on *lox*, thinly sliced smoked salmon, then you've had sockeye. Pink salmon is typically canned and is sometimes



My, what a big mouth you have!
The king salmon is the largest of the salmon species.

Your majesty!



Whale fat is cooked to make mukluk.

called a "humpie" due to the large bump on the adult males' head. *Keta*, or chum salmon, is the smallest of all at just 3 feet long. Their eggs are the bright orange pearls atop sushi rolls, known as *ikura*.

Then there is everyone's favorite "kitchen pet," sourdough. This quintessential and beloved bread harkens back to the Gold Rush days. Gold miners brought sourdough starters to Alaska during the late 1800s. They even bundled their starters in blankets during the winter to keep the yeast alive. Several restaurants proudly proclaim their starters can trace their crumbs...err, roots...back to those earliest Gold Rush dough balls.

What about Eskimo Pie? And Klondike Bars and Baked Alaska?

While all three frozen desserts sound Alaskan, none of them originated in Alaska. They were actually invented more than 100 years ago in the



A moose burger is topped with lingonberry jam and chanterelles (a type of fungi).

Gold miners brought sourdough to Alaska during the late 1800s/early 1900s.



An assortment of berries grow wild throughout Alaska.



Don't let the name fool you—Baked Alaska did not originate in our 49th state.



lower 48—Iowa, Ohio, and New York.

In an Iowan candy store, a little boy couldn't decide between ice cream and a chocolate bar. Why not both together? thought the owner. After dabbling with dairy and cocoa butter, the first-ever chocolate-covered ice cream brick was born, the "I-Scream Bar." The name was later switched to "Eskimo Pie," but last year, the name was changed again, this time to Edy's Pie.

Several weeks later, Klondike Bars hit the shelves in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Costing only 10 cents each, the six original flavors included maple, cherry, and grape. If you bit into a "lucky pink" center, then you won a free bar. It wasn't until the 1970s that these iconic treats began selling around the country. Now there are 10 tasty varieties.

As for Baked Alaska, legend has it that this showstopper of

a dessert originated in New York City's famed Delmonico restaurant. It was created to commemorate the purchase of the Alaskan territories from the Russian Empire in 1867. Meant to resemble the shape of an igloo, sponge cake is slathered in ice cream and blanketed with hard meringue. When presented, it's flambéed...i.e., lit on fire.

From wild game meats to ocean eats, Alaska has a bevy of iconic dishes. What was once considered only indigenous fare has been reimagined for metropolitan tastes. Stroll through any city, and you're sure to find a hot dog cart selling reindeer wieners and brats. You can top your pizza with caribou sausage and porcupine pepperoni. Fried halibut is tossed into tacos and mighty moose meatballs often

accompany true Alaskan pasta.

But you may want to leave "stinkheads" for those true culinary daredevils. Stinkheads are fish heads that have been buried underground for a week or more to enhance their raw flavor and aroma. Mmmm?

Jennifer Buchet is an award-winning children's author. Her debut picture book *Little Medusa's Hair Do-Lemma* launched in spring 2021 (Clear Fork Publishing). When not writing kidlit, she divides her time between family and exploring exotic tastes and treats. Visit her at www.buchetbooks.wixsite.com

FAST FACTS

» The largest cabbage grown by an Alaskan weighed 138 pounds. That's a lot of slaw. Moose burger on the side, anyone?

» A typical Alaskan king crab can yield about six pounds of meat. But humans are not the only species that eat this crab. Lots of sea creatures do too, from halibut and cod to octopi and sea otters.

» If you're given the nickname "sourdough," it's not because you look grumpy or slovenly. It means you've lived through at least one Alaskan winter.

by Gail Skroback Hennessey

TOMMY JOSEPH MASTER CARVER

Tommy Joseph





Tommy Joseph has been carving traditional totem poles for more than 40 years.

Tlingit (Kling-kit) master carver Tommy Joseph has been carving for more than 40 years, especially totem poles.

He has an outdoor studio at the Sitka National Historical Park in Alaska where people can watch him in action. Joseph also teaches the art of wood carving.

He estimates that if stacked on top of one another, his 40 different totem poles would reach more than 500 feet. Nineteen of his totem poles are in Sitka, Alaska. Others are in Ohio, Washington, the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, and Chicago. Some are overseas in Germany, France, Great Britain, and New Zealand.



Some of Joseph's totem poles are 25 feet tall.



Joseph sketches out his design on the wood before he begins carving.

It looks pretty drawn out.

Q How did you get interested in wood carving?

A I was in third grade. A local wood carver came to my school and gave a demonstration. I remember going home and taking one of my mom's kitchen knives to try to carve something. My first carving was a native halibut hook, made from yellow cedar wood. I remember my mom wasn't too happy with me using her knife for my wood carving and asked me to return it to the kitchen. After that, if I knew someone was doing carvings, I would go and observe. I used any opportunity to learn how to carve. I'd then go home and try and see what I could do. I also went to the library and took out books. When I was 13, I remember starting my own library collection of books using birthday money to purchase more books on wood carving. I love creating with my hands and making something from wood.

Q In addition to your totem pole carvings, your carvings include traditional masks, bowls, wooden boxes, wooden helmets, and armor. You also are making a 20-foot dugout canoe. What are the tools used in your wood carving?

A Traditional carvings were made using sharpened stones, bones, and seashells. Beaver teeth were also used in traditional carvings. Many carving tools I use, I have made myself. I have recycled old car springs



Eagles and ravens are important animals and depicted on many totem poles.

and saw blades into carving tools. Making your own tools is also something you learn to do. One of my tools is an elbow *adze* (adz), a curved tool (similar to an ax) to help me smooth and peel away wood. I also use knives (not my mom's), chisels, gougers, and chain saws.

Q After you get the "right" tree, it is moved to the carving site where the bark is removed from the log. About a third of the log is cut off, and the log is hollowed making it lighter. This also helps prevent cracking. A support pole is made from the wood that was removed and fitted back into the hollowed area to also help prevent the pole from cracking. Can you tell us more about making a totem pole?

A A totem pole tells a story. It can celebrate a family event, be a memorial, and even made to shame someone for doing something wrong. If I am making a totem pole for a client, the first thing I do is interview the person to find out what story they want to be told. I then make a paper sketch and after having it approved by the client, I draw the sketch onto the wood. Plotting where to place everything takes lots of planning. Lots of mathematics are involved in mapping out what can go on the pole! After the pole is carved, it is painted. Traditional totem pole colors are blue, green, black, and red. I use latex house paints and then coat the pole with paraffin oil.

Q What are common animals found on totem poles?

A The eagle, raven, bear, whale, wolf, and frog are animals often depicted on totem poles. For the Tlingit people, a matriarchal people (the mother is the head of the family), the eagle and raven are the two prominent animals found on our totem poles.

Q What type of trees make the best totem poles?

A Red cedar are the biggest, most durable and the softest to work with. Second best would be the yellow cedar, also durable, rot resistant, but it can crack in cold weather.



Joseph shares his knowledge of wood carving with others.

Q When a totem pole is completed, how is it raised into place?

A Raising a totem pole is a community event. A trench is dug, and the end of the pole is set into place. Five to six lines of ropes are used to help lift the pole. Safety first, that is very important in raising a totem pole. I am the only person within the area where the pole might fall. For a recent 40-foot totem pole, 200 people came to assist. Rocks and dirt are used to fill the trench, securing the pole into place.

Q It takes you about six months to complete a totem pole. What was the tallest totem pole you have made?

A It was 35 feet tall. Actually, I have made four at this size.

Q What is the hardest part in making a totem pole? Anything else you'd like to share?

A When to say you are done with a totem pole is the hardest part for me. For children, I would say find something you like to do and keep doing it. Everything done is practice for the next!

Gail Skrobback Hennessey, a retired teacher, is the author of 35 children's books. Her latest books, *Mrs. Paddington and the Silver Mouse-traps* and *Fashion Rules! (Life in the Middle Ages)* were published by Red Chair Press in 2020.

WHERE in the World?

Answer is
on page 48.

Do you know
where our friend
Globey is enjoying
his copy of **FACES**?

Here is a hint: This
structure was built
in 1943.



ALASKA

★ BY WATER ★

The pilots who fly in and out of the Anchorage airport must wield their controls with steady hands and nerves of steel. Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, the largest seaplane base in the world, averages 190 takeoffs and landings per day. That's a lot of air traffic, and these Alaskan pilots do it all on water.





by Michelle Ulrich

Flying a seaplane is not like flying other small aircraft. Seaplanes have no brakes. As soon as the pilot starts his or her engine, the plane starts moving. Once moving, the plane's floats must plow through water on takeoff. This causes a resistance called "aerodynamic drag," which pilots must overcome to get airborne. This is why you can sometimes observe seaplanes lifting off one float at a time. When the first float leaves the water, the aerodynamic drag is cut in half, making it easier for the entire plane to get airborne.

Water landings are challenging, too. Choppy water feels much like solid ground, but glassy water is hazardous. When pilots look at a lake below them and see sky reflected, they proceed with caution. This "mirror effect" makes it difficult to see the water during landing.

Between the landing and takeoff lanes of the Anchorage airport lies an island, where many waterfowl once nested. These flocks became dangerous for incoming and outgoing aircraft, so three pigs named Larry, Moe, and Curly were moved onto the island. They deter any waterfowl that would like to nest there.

From the air, Alaska is a panorama of lush forests striped with rugged mountain ridges and dotted with vivid blue lakes. This terrain, although beautiful, is another reason pilots must always stay alert. Even instrument-certified pilots stay out of the clouds in Alaska, for that is the only way they can see upcoming obstacles and avoid crashing into the mountains. Following rivers also helps them navigate the rugged territory.

Alaska from above
is a stunning view.



Pilots must be prepared
for all types of weather.



Choppy waters are easier for landing.



Ready for take-off!

FAST FACTS

- » During winter, the frozen lake at the Anchorage seaplane base remains open for air traffic. Pilots swap their summer floats for winter skis and continue flying.
- » Modern seaplanes are frequently used in search and rescue missions.

Alaska's weather is notoriously unpredictable, with rapidly shifting cloud cover and winds. Winds usually blow east or west, moving with the direction of the mountain ridges. But when the wind blows north or south, it rises and falls across the terrain, creating turbulence in the valleys.

Because of such potentially dangerous weather shifts, pilots within radio range keep each other informed on any weather changes. Looking out for each other helps ensure safe flights for everyone.

Residents in small Alaskan towns memorize the plane schedules, for it is the seaplanes that bring their mail and groceries and take them to doctors' appointments and family reunions. Pilots and passengers often plan an extra day or two into their travel times. That way, if threatening weather comes up mid-flight, they can simply divert to a nearby lake and wait it out. Pilots carry tents and other supplies in the plane for such occasions. Many lakes in Alaska also have small cabins on their shores for travelers who need them. Although very rustic, these cabins offer better protection than a tent.

In addition to tents, Alaskan pilots carry emergency kits and tools in case the airplane needs repairs. Passengers may also pack for unplanned delays. Paperback books are a good idea. They help pass the time, and, in a pinch, the pages can be used as fire starter or even toilet paper. With

proper preparation, traveling through Alaska by seaplane can be done safely and be a fun experience, too.

Many pilots and passengers have lifted off the watery runways of the Anchorage Seaplane Base, bound for Alaskan adventures all their own.

Maybe one day you will, too.

Michelle Ulrich is a schoolteacher. She enjoys learning about faraway places and would like to fly an airplane some day.



Seaplanes are lined up at the Lake Hood Airport in Anchorage.

YOUR TURN

We asked you to decorate a heart with things that make you happy in our March 2021 issue. Here are some colorful submissions.



Emina U.



Fiona L.



Sophie S.



Zayda P.



Zoey S.

Send your artwork to FACES Cricket Media, 1 East Erie Street, Suite 525, PMB4136, Chicago, IL 60611 or e-mail it to faces@cricketmedia.com. Your artwork could appear in an upcoming issue of FACES.

by Kate Moening

ALONE TOGETHER ON THE TUNDRA





It's 6:00 p.m., and Dr. Jessica Klejka (CLAY-kuh) has just arrived home from the Knik (Kuh-NICK) Veterinary Clinic. But her day isn't over yet—it's time to take her sled dogs for an evening training run. The dogs are excited as Klejka puts their booties on and hooks them to the sled. They'll run 30 miles together before they turn in.

When the team gets home, it's after 10 p.m. Klejka's husband, Sam, has left a light on. Tomorrow, they'll do it all again. This is the world of a dog musher.

Getting Her Start

Mushing has deep roots in Alaska. Native Alaskans used dogsleds to get around. In the 1800s, dogs carried mail and supplies to gold miners. Today, dog mushing is Alaska's state sport. Mushers like Klejka prepare dogsled teams to race, from short sprints to long treks over hundreds of miles.

The oldest of seven children, Klejka grew up in Bethel, a town of less than 7,000 people on Alaska's Kuskokwim (KUHS-koh-kwim) River. When she was six, Klejka's family received eight elderly sled dogs and some old dogsledding gear from a local dentist who moved away.

Klejka's been dogsledding ever since. "I loved dogs from an early age," she says. "I spent all my time in the dog yard, walking

dogs, playing with dogs." She took on most of the dog care chores and learned everything she could about mushing.

Mushers from across Alaska come to Bethel for the Kuskokwim 300, a 300-mile dogsled race up the Kuskokwim River and back. School lets out for the kick-off, and the whole town comes to watch. As a kid, Klejka loved listening to famous mushers share stories about racing. She saved her babysitting money to buy dogs from visiting mushers, gradually building her own dogsled team.

By high school, Klejka was doing well in 50-mile races. She was often the only girl and the only teenager competing. Her senior year, Klejka won the 150-mile Junior Iditarod. This competition is a taste of the Iditarod itself—the world's most famous dogsled race, across 1,000 miles of icy tundra from Anchorage to Nome.

Since then, Klejka has raced the Iditarod twice. She also works

On the trail. A team of sled dogs leads the way.

full-time as a veterinarian, traveling to remote towns (including Bethel) several days a week to provide vet care. When she gets home from the clinic, Klejka trains her team until late in the evening. She even volunteers as a race veterinarian, caring for dogs who get injured or sore along the trail.

Getting Race-ready

The Klejkas have 21 dogs in their kennel, and a dog handler spends the winter with them. Handlers help with the day-to-day care of trimming nails, laying down fresh straw, cleaning up dog poop, and preparing high-calorie meals at least twice a day.

Training is a year-round event. Klejka's team does shorter runs in August, pulling ATVs over rough terrain. By November, the team runs 30 to 40 miles each day, tugging sleds across frozen lakes and creeks.

When the Iditarod rolls around, the dogs have already run three to four thousand miles as a team.

They've learned to move together and trade roles. "In movies," Klejka says, "there's always one lead dog. But in reality, our kennel is all lead dogs. We switch them around." Dogs with strong personalities don't make good sled dogs, she explains. It's important that they be able to work as a team.



The World on the Trail

For mushers, a lot of race training is mental. They prepare for little sleep and days of isolation. "When I think of long races, I think of it as a great meditation," Klejka says. "It's just me with my dog team for all that time."

During a race, mushers stop at checkpoints to get food, supplies, and rest. Iditarod checkpoints are 50 to 100 miles apart, often in small villages. Races are a community event. Schools close, and kids come out to greet the mushers and look at the dog sleds. People offer pies and desserts and share local specialties like moose and caribou soup. Villagers recognize repeat mushers and get to know





It's a dogged pursuit!

Klejka spends hours training her dogs.



them and their teams.

The Iditarod has two required rests, but dogs need more than that over a long race. Part of a musher's job is to know what each dog needs to keep going—who will only eat fish at a rest stop or who needs extra attention when they're tired.

Mushers must take care of themselves, too. They sleep only a few hours at a time, and even basic tasks, like drinking water, can feel hard to do in -35-degree wind. "Dehydration and sleep deprivation are not a good combination," Klejka says. "You need to take care of

yourself to be able to take care of your dogs."

Dogs trust their mushers, and mushers rely on their team. The dogs know that the trail follows wooden markers with reflective tape, Klejka says. If the wind is blowing too hard for a human to see, the dogs often know where the trail is. "Dogs are so smart. We don't know how smart they are until we're out there."

They race on, guiding the sled through the snow toward the finish line.

Kate Moening is a writer and editor. She lives in Minnesota and loves to read and write about history, nature, and outdoor adventures.

FAST FACTS

- » In 1925, a relay of dog teams carried life-saving medicine from Anchorage to Nome. They saved Nome from a diphtheria epidemic. The Iditarod largely follows the route this relay took.
- » The name "Iditarod" comes from an Ingalik word *hidedhod*, which means "distant place."
- » During the Iditarod, more than 50 veterinarians are posted along the trail. That's almost one per musher.
- » The shortest-ever Iditarod time was 8 days, 40 minutes, and 13 seconds. The longest was more than 32 days.
- » The Iditarod has a northern and a southern route. The route switches each year.



DISCOVERING THE NATIONAL PARKS

Amid the snow and cold of Alaska lie some of the world's most beautiful national parks just waiting to be discovered.

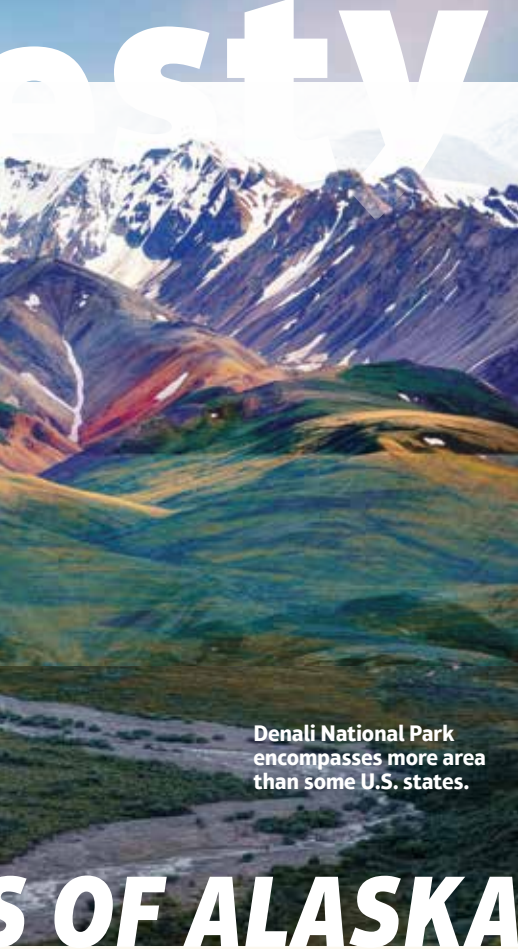
Alaska's Denali National Park is home to 20,320-foot Denali, the tallest mountain in North America. The park covers more than 6 million acres in interior Alaska and is the largest protected ecosystem in the world. You can find 650 species of flowering plants, 39 species of mammals, 167 bird species, and 10 species of

fish in the park. You can mountain bike, walk on the Denali Park Road, hike, camp, raft, and see plenty of wildlife while at Denali. If you look closely, you may run across moose, caribou, and fox—even a grizzly bear.

Farther south along the southeast coast of the Kenai Peninsula lies Kenai Fjords National

Park. This park is made up of three main areas: Exit Glacier, Harding Icefield, and the coast, all of which have been formed by glaciers, earthquakes, and ocean storms. Exit Glacier is a half-mile-wide river of ice and the easiest section of the park for visitors to access. It is one of the few places in the world where you can walk close to an active glacier. Harding Icefield is one of only four that remain in the United States, and the only one that is entirely within the United States. Snow and ice cover 60% of the park, and ice masses the size of houses can sometimes be seen crashing from the glaciers into the sea. At Kenai Fjords National Park,

by Barbara Mazarakos



Denali National Park
encompasses more area
than some U.S. states.

S OF ALASKA

you can view wildlife, take nature walks, kayak, hike, fish, camp, and cross-country ski. You may also be able to see one of the three distinct types of orca whales that swim in the waters nearby. There are the resident whales that eat fish, transients that eat larger marine mammals, and rare orcas that are sometimes seen offshore in the open waters eating both fish and mammals—including sharks.

Whether you feel like hiking, kayaking, camping, or relaxing and taking in the wildlife and vegetation, you can surely enjoy visiting the national parks of Alaska.



A group of sea lions
sunbathes on a rock.



A hiker gets a close up
view of Exit Glacier.



Time for a snack. A
grizzly bear sits among
blueberries in Denali
National Park.

Kylie found a new pen pal from Alaska. The two talked about fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

Dear James,

Hello! My name is Kylie. I am from New Hampshire, and I'm a high school sophomore. I'm thrilled to be pen pals with you and to learn more about Alaska.

When I'm not writing or in school, I like to hike, run, play soccer, and babysit. I also like to go to the beach to swim in the ocean and relax in the warm sand. I love berry or apple picking with my family. Sometimes we do fun indoor activities like painting, eating out, or bowling. What are some fun things you like to do in Alaska?

I heard you like fishing. I have never been, but am excited to learn about it. What do you like best about fishing? My brother loves to fish. He enjoys reel and fly fishing, but he never catches as many fish as he would like to. Do you do a specific type of fishing? Is anything different about fishing in Alaska than in other places?

Your friend,
Kylie



Dear Kylie,

My name is James and I am seven years old. I live in Petersburg, Alaska, on a small island. For fun, I like to ride my bike, make chocolate chip cookies, make artwork and books, make arts and crafts, and swim in muskeg holes with my after-school program. Muskeg holes are puddles that are in muskeg (land with green, red, yellow, and orange moss). They are full of mud and tiny little living creatures that hardly even bother us. Muskeg can be really

soaking wet or really dry. Trees live in the muskeg and have pinecones. Sometimes the trees are crumbly.

I like eating winter king salmon that my dad brings home. My favorite fishing in Alaska is fishing for dollys. Dolly Varden is a type of trout here in Alaska and they are fun to catch. The best trips were when my family went commercial gill netting to catch salmon. My favorite part about those trips was holding the humpie salmon, also called pink salmon.

James



Dear James,

Thank you so much for your response.

I like to bike and bake too. In the summer, my friend Ella and I like to bike around my city or to a local ice cream shop. I like baking things like cookies just like you.

This weekend, I made my family Oreo cheesecakes, and a Rocky Road type of cookie. I think it is fun that we have a lot in common even though we live so far apart.

I have never heard of muskeg holes. They sound like lots of fun. It's interesting how the moss can change from wet to dry.

Your family fishing trips sound great. I think my brother would be very jealous. The fish you caught in your picture is impressive. Do you go fishing often?

I am from a small town too, but now I live in a small city. Have you visited any of the cities in Alaska? The closest big city to me is Boston, which is about an hour away by car. I love how busy Boston is. I like visiting all the museums and restaurants. What are Alaskan cities like?

Kylie



James with his catch of the day, a cutthroat trout.



James, his parents, and Jasper

Dear Kylie,

I don't go to the city much. I had to get my ear tubes and also my tonsils out in Anchorage. I have been to Seattle to see the doctor and visit family. One time, I hiked out to a glacier in Juneau and saw a waterfall. We have to be careful hiking in Alaska because of bears.



James



Dear James,

Hiking on a glacier sounds amazing. From the pictures I have seen, the scenery in Juneau looks beautiful, I'm sure our readers will find it interesting and a little scary that you have to look out for bears while hiking in Alaska.

I love to go back and visit my small town in New Hampshire. We often have to look out for bears while camping because they are always looking for a yummy meal. At my old home, we would often see a black bear and her cubs in our back yard, and they usually were eating from our blackberry bushes. They were fun to watch, but only when I was safely inside. It's exciting to me that New Hampshire and Alaska have some similarities.

Lastly, I would love to know about Alaskan skies. When I lived in the mountains of New Hampshire, the skies were very clear, and I could see so many stars. Where I live now, I can't see quite as many stars, mainly because the lights people use keep it from getting really dark, but I am very appreciative when I can see them. I've heard the skies in Alaska are very clear and beautiful. I've never been able to see the Northern Lights in person although I have read it is possible on occasion in N.H., but I understand it's often possible in Alaska. Have you ever seen the Northern Lights?

Your friend,
Kylie



Dear Kylie,

We can see a lot of stars, sometimes even Northern Lights. I have not seen the Northern Lights in person, but my dad saw them while he was on a boat called the Cinnamon Girl. It is cloudy and rainy in Alaska here most of the time and also sometimes windy. When it's sunny it's beautiful here.

I am off to see some baby chicks!

From,

James



Dear James,

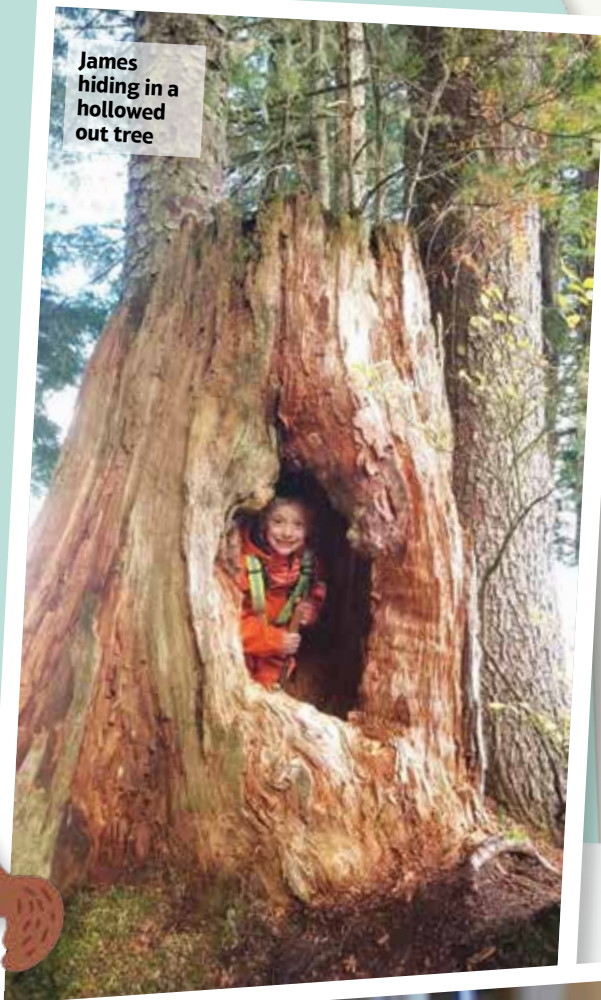
That sounds like fun. Chickens are my favorite animal.

It's amazing that you are able to see so many beautiful stars and the Northern Lights. I bet you really appreciate those sunny days. In New Hampshire, our springs are often very rainy and windy, and we are always anxious for summer. Our summers are hot and sunny with occasional rainy days, but our winters are very cold and snowy.

Thank you so much for talking to me about Alaska.

With smiles,

Kylie



A CLOSER LOOK



Volcanoes of Alaska

Alaska has more than 100 volcanoes. Seventy-six are in the region of Alaska called the Aleutian Islands. More than 50 are active.

Augustine is Alaska's most active volcano. It is located in the Cook Inlet near Anchorage. It erupted twice in the 1800s and four times in the last 100 years. There was a big eruption in 1986 that spewed ash and steam clouds 3.8 miles high.

Most of Alaska's active volcanoes are composite volcanoes, meaning they were formed by alternating layers of lava and rock.

Of Alaska's active volcanoes, one or two erupt each year.

The Aleutian name for Mount Cleveland is Chuginadek, which refers to the group's goddess of fire, who was thought to live on the volcano.

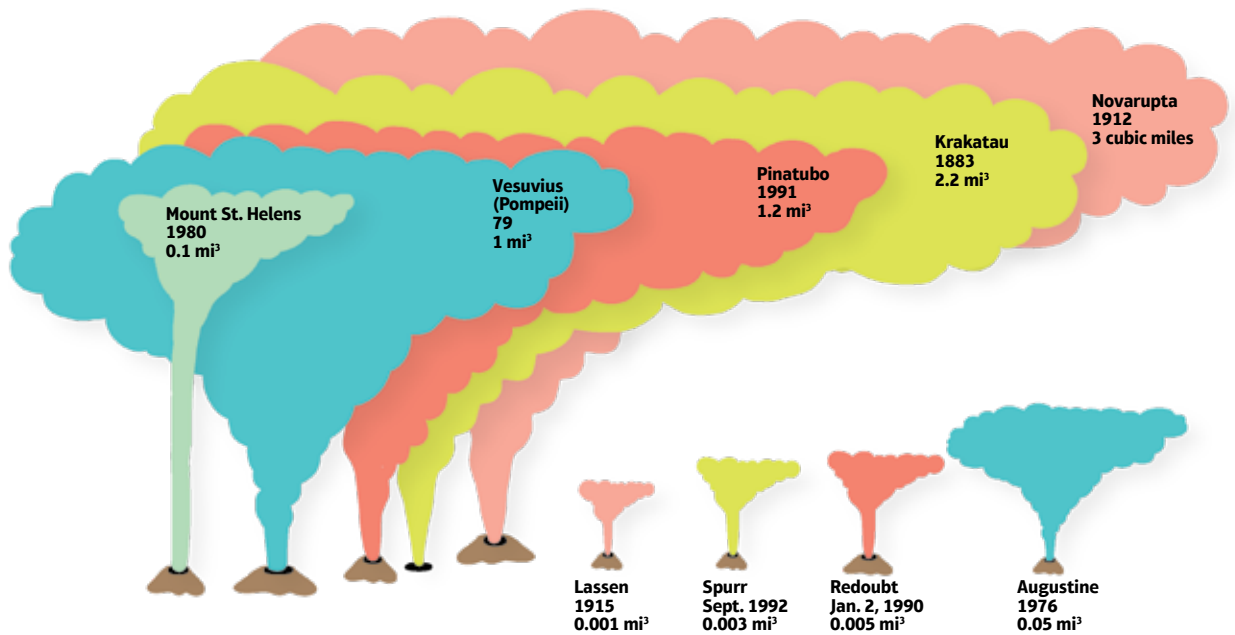
Alaska's Novarupta erupted for two straight days in 1912, sending 7 cubic miles of ash and pumice into the air. The wind blew 12 inches of ash to Kodiak, Alaska, about 100 miles away. Some ash even reached Puget Sound, Washington, which is more than 1,500 miles away. The Novarupta eruption was one of the two largest eruptions in the 20th century.





The Alaska Volcano Observatory monitors and studies Alaska's volcanoes.

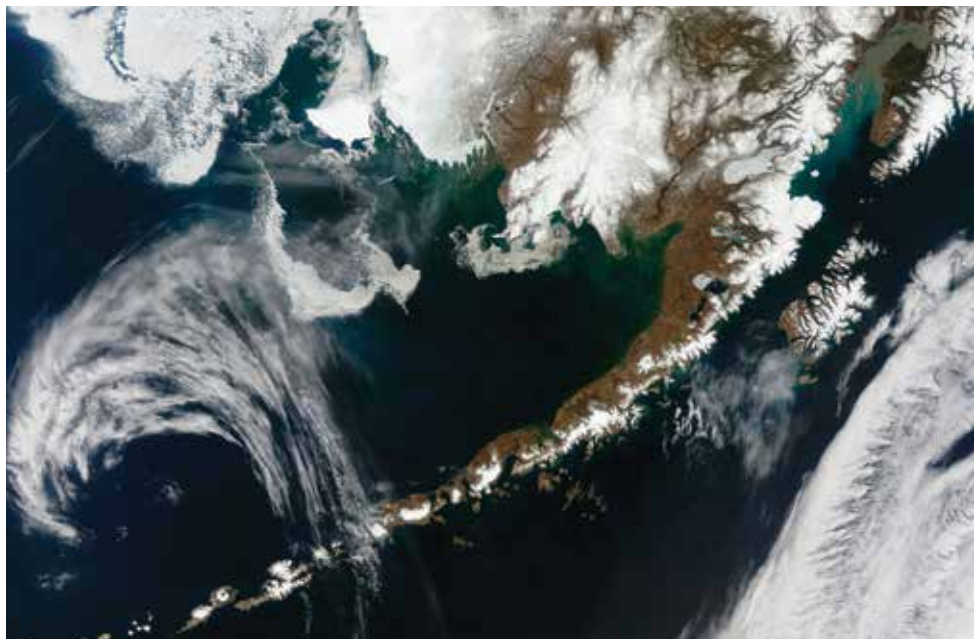
This diagram shows how far the plumes of smoke and ash from each eruption traveled. Novarupta in Alaska was one of the most powerful eruptions of the 20th century.



The curved row of volcanoes that make up the Aleutian Islands formed about 40 million years ago.

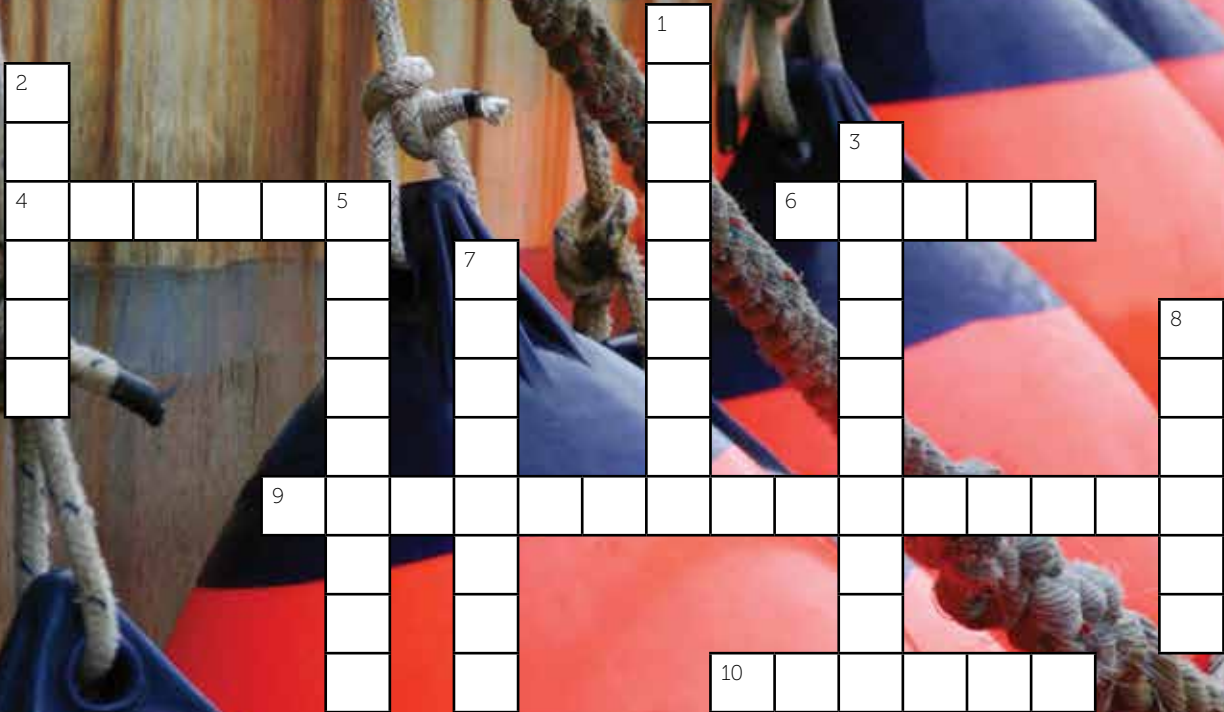
About three-quarters of U.S. volcanoes that have erupted in the last 200 years are in Alaska.

Volcanoes in Alaska form the northern part of the Ring of Fire.



ALASKA CROSSWORD

Answers to Alaska Crossword on page 48



ACROSS

- 4 The United States purchased Alaska from this country in 1867.
- 6 number of stars on the Alaskan flag
- 9 Canadian province that borders Alaska (*two words*)
- 10 capital of Alaska

DOWN

- 1 bread brought to Alaska by gold miners
- 2 strait that separates Russian and Alaska
- 3 official fish of Alaska (*two words*)
- 5 Alaska's largest city
- 7 Alaska's nickname, "the Last _____"
- 8 highest mountain peak in North America

So when you
want to learn
something...



Alaska
question.

Buoys protect a docked ship
in Alaska.



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THE WOMAN AND HER BEAR

A PLAY BASED ON AN INUIT LEGEND

retold by Pat Betteley

illustrated by Denise Gallagher



Characters:

» **Narrator 1**

» **Narrator 2**

» **Narrator 3**

» **Old Woman**

» **Nukilik:** Villager

» **Aput:** Villager

» **Ikiq:** Little Boy

NARRATOR 1: In the cold, dark north, an old woman lived all alone in a little hut at the edge of an **Inuit** village. She had no husband or sons to hunt for her, so she sometimes had to depend on her neighbors for food.

IKIAQ: My mother sends salmon for your dinner.

OLD WOMAN: Thank you. Tell her I am lucky to have such a generous neighbor. And she is lucky, too—to have such a kind, strong son.

NARRATOR 1: The old woman often walked along the shore, staring out at the sea, praying to the gods that she might also have a son. One day, she saw a little white polar bear in the distance. She walked out on the ice to get a closer look.

OLD WOMAN: Where is your mother? Has someone killed her? It seems we are both alone in the world, then. Come, little one.

NARRATOR 1: She took him back to her home and shared what little food she had with him.

OLD WOMAN: I will call you Kunik, my son.

NARRATOR 2: Kunik and the old woman were happy together. He was a round, friendly, little

bear. The children of the village loved to play with him, sliding on the ice and tumbling in the snow together. Kunik grew quickly over the spring and summer. During the long, dark winter, the children taught him to hunt and fish. By spring, he was bringing salmon home to his mother every afternoon.

OLD WOMAN: Thank the gods for you, Kunik. Now I have plenty of meat and fish to eat, furs to keep me warm, and blubber for cooking. Good neighbors, come and share Kunik's catch with us. There's more than enough.

NUKILIK: She speaks the truth. That bear brings home the biggest seals and the fattest salmon.

APUT: Yes. He makes the rest of us look bad.

NUKILIK: And he has grown so strong, he is a danger to our families. For the sake of our children, we must kill him.

IKIAQ: (overhearing) Oh, no! I must warn the Old Woman.

NARRATOR 2: When she heard of her neighbors' wicked plot, the old woman visited each of them to plead for her son's life.

OLD WOMAN: Kunik is my son. Please do not take him. Kill me, instead.

NUKILIK: That bear is getting too strong and dangerous. Tomorrow, he must die. Then the whole village will have a fine feast—and use his fur to keep us warm.

NARRATOR 2: The old woman hurried home. She called Kunik to sit beside her.



OLD WOMAN: My son, you must leave at once. The villagers have become jealous and plan to kill you. Run quickly and do not come back.

NARRATOR 3: With tears in his eyes, the bear did as his mother asked.

OLD WOMAN: Do not forget me. . .

NARRATOR 3: From time to time, the broken-hearted old woman felt very lonely and hungry. Then she left her hut early in the morning to walk far out on the ice, calling Kunik's name. Soon, a great polar bear came running to meet her.

OLD WOMAN: My son! How are you? Let me check your fur to make sure you have not been injured. No, you look big, strong, and sleek!

NARRATOR 3: When he saw that she was hungry, Kunik ran to get her fresh meat and fish. They ate some together, and she took the rest home.

And so it happened for many years. The villagers realized the love between the old woman and her bear was strong and true. And, to this day, the Inuit tell the tale of the faithful bear Kunik and the old woman who brought him up.

FAST FACTS

- » **Inuit** means “the people.” It is the name for the native peoples of northern Alaska, Arctic Canada, and Greenland, and also the name of their language.
- » The Inuit lived in small groups, often sharing their catches as they followed animals, fish, and birds during migrations. They hunted whales, seals, caribou, and polar bears, and they fished for salmon and Arctic char.
- » All parts of captured animals were used: meat for food; skins for clothes, boots, and tents; sinews for threads and ropes; bones for weapons and tools; and oil for stoves and lamps.
- » Hunters believed that powerful spirits sent them their game. Every animal they killed was thanked for allowing itself to be caught.
- » Winters in the Arctic are long (up to 9 months) and cold (down to -50 F). During the dark winters, the Inuit like to play games and tell tales of powerful animals, strong hunters, and supernatural beings.



Basket Weaving

Alaska is home to many indigenous peoples. They have faced many challenges to maintaining their culture and way of life. Indigenous women artists work to keep their traditions alive through art. They work with many media, including beadwork and jewelry-making and weaving beautiful baskets from cedar. Artists such as Jennie Thlunaut (Shax'na'saani Keek Kaagwaantaan, her Tlingit name) taught the traditional style of weaving to younger artists. Tlingit artist Ernestine Hanlon of Hognah practices basket weaving. She makes her baskets from cedar and spruce trees. We can give it a try using materials we have around us.

Step 1—Laying out the Frame

Cut six strands of vine of equal length. For a small basket, the strands should be at least 2 feet long. Lay them out across each other to form a six-pointed star.

Step 2—Forming the Base

Take another piece of vine and begin to weave it around the center of the star. Once you have gone around it once, insert another vine into the middle so that you have a seven-pointed star. This will make the weaving alternate properly.

A collection of colorful art supplies is illustrated around a central text box. At the top left, there are two brushes with black and orange handles. Next to them are two pencils, one orange and one grey. To the right is a rectangular paint palette with ten wells of various colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, and black. Below the central text box is a heart-shaped paint palette with five wells of red, purple, green, yellow, and blue. At the bottom right, there is a pink cup with a paintbrush inside it. The background is a light beige color with some faint, abstract paint splatters.

Materials

» Vines (a wisteria or grapevine would work well) or willow tree twigs. These should be green and flexible enough to bend without snapping.

A woman works on a traditional birch bark basket.



You can weave using wisteria or grapevines.



them upwards. Tie them together at the top with some twine. Continue weaving the vines around the basket to make the sides.

Step 5–Making the Brim

Once the basket is as deep as you would like it to be, bend the original seven arms down one at a time, weaving them into the top edge of the basket. This will form a brim. You may have to push the pieces into other vines that are already connected to the basket. It won't be a perfect weaving pattern, but as long as the twigs are fastened down, it will work.

Step 6–Completed Basket

Your vines will eventually dry out and stiffen into the shape of the basket you have made. If you have enough vines, you could try making more baskets with different shapes and sizes. Try weaving different colored twigs to make a pattern or add some dried flowers or vines with leaves on them to add interesting details.

Step 3–Completing the Bottom

Using the longest piece you can manage, continue weaving around the middle of the star, expanding the bottom of the basket until it is as wide as you would like it to be.

Step 4–Forming the Sides

Now take the seven arms of the star and bend

YOUR TURN: Make a Weaving

Have your parent or legal guardian send us a high-resolution image of your creation to faces@cricketmedia.com by October 16, 2021. Be sure the email includes your name, age, and address, and states that "Cricket Media may publish the image provided in Cricket's magazines and online, and that I am authorized to provide the image."

All submissions become property of Cricket Media and will not be returned.

SAY WHAT?



"I'm FELINE
pretty good
right MEOW."

—Isidora G.

"Five more
minutes . . . "

—Emma H.

"I've spotted
you!"

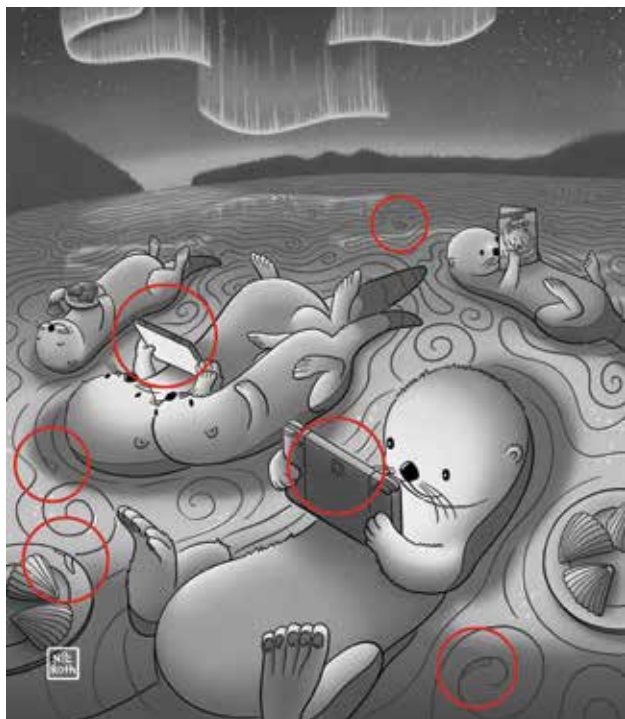
—David M.

"I see you."

—Cates and Wickham K.

May/June 2021

Answer Page



ANSWER TO MYSTERY PHOTO ON INSIDE FRONT COVER:

Prospectors flocked to Alaska in 1897 hoping to find nuggets of gold.

ANSWER TO WHERE IN THE WORLD ON PAGE 27:

The Whittier Tunnel is the longest combined vehicle-railroad tunnel in North America. Drivers must wait their turn before passing through.

ANSWERS TO ALASKA CROSSWORD ON PAGE 40:

ACROSS

4. Russia; 6. eight; 9. British Columbia;
10. Juneau.

DOWN

1. sourdough; 2. Bering; 3. king salmon;
5. Anchorage; 7. Frontier; 8. Denali.

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SWIRLING SEAS

by Nic McDougal

Cuddling sea otters relax while snacking on oysters. But can you find the hidden items?

Answers on page 48



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