

Lesson Plan Title: Using The Story of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

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Discipline / Subject: Reading/language arts. This can also be used to introduce the race in any subject area.

Topic: Information about the history and background of the race

Grade Level: all grades

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs: Copies of The Story of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race for each student. This article is from The Learning Works, Inc. Copy of questions for the initial reading of the article. A set of questions to use at a later time to practice informational reading skills is also with this lesson.

Lesson Summary

Students will read the history of the race as an introduction to the event in preparation for using the Iditarod as a teaching tool in the classroom.

Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National) *Listed are only a few of a variety of standards with which this article can be used. Additional ideas are presented in the lesson.*

1. NCSCOS 2.03 Read a variety of texts, such as: nonfiction (books of true experience)
NCSCOS goals for grades 3-secondary: Read a variety of texts to comprehend, analyze, and apply information.

Alaska State Content Standards **English/language arts** A student should be a competent and thoughtful reader, listener, and viewer of literature, technical materials, and a variety of other information.
Science A student should understand and be able to apply the concepts, models, theories, facts, evidence, systems, and processes of life science.
History A student should understand historical themes through factual knowledge of time, places, ideas, institutions, cultures, people, and events.

National Standards

Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.

<p>Learning objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To read information to learn the history and background of an event and how that history affects the present and future. 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Method of assessment for learning: A rubric to score the presentations; observation to determine student involvement; questioning.</p>
<p>Procedural Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give each student a copy of the article. Students may keep this in their classroom folder all year to use in different ways throughout the year. 2. Read the article in pairs, in small groups, or using a “popcorn” method (Students read as little or as much as they choose, aloud, and then choose the next student to read aloud.) 3. Discuss unknown words. Develop vocabulary from this article. 4. Use this article as a springboard to 1) develop background knowledge of the race; 2) have students underline verbs, or common and proper nouns & write them on paper for a verb or noun wall; 3) research diphtheria & immunization efforts; think about why the current race emphasizes childhood vaccinations; 4) research the early airplane and its limitations; 5) read for information to answer multiple choice questions; 6) research the Alaskan Gold Rush; 7) research the history of the Iditarod Trail. The ideas are unlimited! 5. Students present information researched in a variety of presentations—power point, brochure, poster, report, etc. 	
<p>Materials Students Need:</p> <p>Copy of <u>The Story of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race</u>, pencils, materials necessary for the project that may be assigned</p>	
<p>Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:</p> <p>Computers for researching people, topics, places given in the article.</p>	
<p>Other Information</p> <p>This article is great background information for children and adults regarding the race’s history. I have used it with my school’s staff to quickly this important information as well as with my classes all through the year as we apply grammar, research skills, and test practice skills to the article.</p>	
<p>Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities</p> <p>Work in groups to read the article. Work in groups to develop the projects. Use a jigsaw method within a class to present information about various topics introduced in this article. Invite a physician to talk about diphtheria and immunizations for it.</p>	