

DRAFTING A FANTASY IDITAROD TEAM!

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Discipline / Subject: Science

Topic: Adaptations

Grade Level: 2-8; others with modification

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

List of appropriate Iditarod kennel sites

Denali Distance Learning – Science of Sled Dogs materials

<http://www.nps.gov/dena/forteachers/learning/sled-dogs.htm>

Lesson Summary:

Students will analyze the adaptations that sled dogs have which allow them to thrive in the Arctic. They will learn the parts of a dog team and the characteristics of the various team members in order to draft their own fantasy Iditarod team.

Standard's Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

Next Generation Science Standard:

3. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Environmental Impacts on Organisms

3-LS4-3. Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

Learning Objectives:

1. TLW identify adaptations that sled dogs have that enable them to survive in harsh conditions
2. TLW identify the positions of dogs in a team
3. TLW identify desirable characteristics for dogs in each position

Assessment:

The students will use their knowledge to draft sixteen dogs for their Fantasy Iditarod Team.

Procedural Activities:

Note: If you can participate in the Denali Distance Learning Program The Science of Sled Dogs prior to this lesson, a lot of this can be review. If not, the program resources materials provided by Denali for the program give a great explanation of both the adaptations and the characteristics the kids will be looking for. Information on joining a program and the program materials can be found here:

<http://www.nps.gov/dena/forteachers/learning/sled-dogs.htm>

1. Mood Setting Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=MKtVqn3jefA
2. Tell the students that today they will begin drafting their Fantasy Iditarod Team!
3. Introduce/Review the adaptations that they will be looking for in their dogs: tongue, feet, fur, circulation, tails (see Denali Science of Sled Dog materials for details).
4. Introduce/Review the team positions and brainstorm a list of desired characteristics for each position. Example: Leader – smart, confident, enthusiastic ; Swing – team player, smart, perceptive; Team – strong; Wheel – biggest on team, calm and steady, strong
5. Explain that the students will need to draft 16 dogs for their team (2 lead, 2 swing, 10 team, and 2 wheel). This may be a good time to discuss different strategies for planning the team. Do you want some extra leaders in amongst your team dogs just in case?
6. Introduce the scoring for the Fantasy Team: points are awarded for dogs at “complete” the race. “Completing” the race in this case means that the musher/kennel completes the race since it is often difficult to tell which dogs are dropped. The place that the team finishes determines the number of points earned. Points are awarded for EACH dog. (See the scoring sheet for details) Students will also earn points for the musher they are officially tracking, but that is another lesson in a few days!
7. Introduce the students to the kennels they will be choosing their dogs from. This takes a bit of planning on the teacher’s part. Find a few kennels that do a good job of talking about their dogs on their websites for the students to explore. I had 8 mushers at 6 different kennels for my kids to explore. You could give them more or less. (See attached table for examples)
8. Distribute the Planning Sheet (attached) for the students to choose their dogs. This is also a good strategy discussion point. Do you pick a lot of dogs from one kennel in the hopes that kennel does well? Or do you spread dogs out so that if one musher scratches it doesn’t have a huge impact on your scoring? Remind them to take into consideration the adaptations and characteristics they have discussed.
9. Teachers will collect the planning forms at the end and return them at the end of the race to total the scores!

Materials Students Need:

Internet access

Fantasy Iditarod Team Planning Sheet

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Iditarod Kennel websites (see attached for a starting point)

Distance Learning Skype opportunity through Denali National Park

Other Information:

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

- The scoring can be as easy or difficult as you wish to make it depending on the math ability of your students.
- Students could work in pairs or teams to draft their teams. It could also work as a cooperative learning group project with students taking on different roles in the project (researcher, scribe, etc).
- Once students have “drafted” their team, they could complete the paperwork to officially “register” for the race. Paperwork for this can be found on the official Iditarod website.

Additional Information

Below is a list of kennels and mushers that may be able to be used for this assignment.

Musher	Kennel	Website	Comments
Ken Anderson	Windy Creek Kennel	http://windycreekkennel.com/index.php?id=140	
Michelle Phillips	Pristine Wilderness Tours	http://www.yukonhuskies.com/	The dogs are listed on a PDF, but it's the 2010 Iditarod Team...
DeeDee Jonrowe		http://www.deedeejonrowe.com/2012Team.html	Her team pics are incomplete – and its very obvious she's asking for sponsorship money
Cim Smyth	Perseverance Springs Farm	http://www.perseverancespringsfarm.com/Cim/Racetam.html	Could work – but not much “fun” details about the dogs
Paige Drobny	Squid Acres	http://squidacres.com/the-dogs-3/	AMAZING site
Ed Stielstra	Nature's Kennel	http://www.natureskennel.com/racing/ourathletes.php	Tough to navigate
Jan Steves		http://www.jansteves.com/meet-the-team.html	Nice site
Aliy Zirkle	SP Kennels	http://spkennelblog.blogspot.com/p/the-dogs-of-sp-kennel.html	
Allen Moore	SP Kennels	http://spkennelblog.blogspot.com/p/the-dogs-of-sp-kennel.html	
John Baker	Team Baker	http://www.teamjohnbaker.com/team-baker.html	Could use last year's team
Brent Sass	Wild and Free Mushing	http://wildandfreealaska.com/dogs.php	Good site
Rick Casillo	Battle Dawgs Racing	http://www.battledawgsracing.com/index.html	Can read about dogs on sponsorship page
Travis Beals	Turning Heads Kennel	http://turningheadskennel.com/	Nothing about dogs yet
Charley Bejna	Iditarod Trail Kennel	http://www.iditarodmusher.com/	Could use last year's team

Mike Ellis	Team Tsuga	http://www.teamtsuga.com/	Nice site
Karin Hendrickson	Blue on Black Dogs	http://www.blueonblackdogs.com/index.html	Good descriptions on sponsorship page
Pete Kaiser	Kaiser Racing	http://kaiserracing.com/	Could use last year's team
Hugh Neff	Laughing Eyes Kennel	http://www.laughingeyeskennel.com/index.html	Some information, not a lot
Karen Ramstead	North Wapiti	http://www.northwapiti.com/	Nice site – used to call female dogs by the “right name” may need to double check
Mike Santos	Wolf's Den Kennel	http://www.wolfsdenkennel.com/	May not be up to date
Lev Shvarts	Team Ollie	http://teamollie.com/	Good site but pics are missing
Monica Zappa	Osma Racing and Tours	http://osmarracingandtours.com/	Dogs are listed

Fantasy Team Scoring

- For EACH Dog (technically, 160 points possible):
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in place 60-69 = 1 point
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in place 50-59 = 2 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in place 40-49 = 3 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in place 30-39 = 4 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in place 20-29 = 5 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in place 10-19 = 6 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in place 4-9 = 7 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in third place = 8 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in second place = 9 points
 - Kennel/Musher finishes in first place = 10 points

For chosen Musher, points above times 5

11	Team							
12	Team							
13	Team							
14	Team							
15	Wheel							
16	Wheel							