

We're Going on Iditarod!

By Heidi Sloan, 2018 Teacher on the Trail™ and Susan Montrief

(Leader says a line. Children repeat **each** time. Tap beat on legs unless doing another motion. *The final two lines of the last stanza are said in unison.*)

Refrain: **We're going on Iditarod! (We're going on Iditarod!)**
 I want to race with sled dogs! (I want to race with sled dogs)

We're coming to a big hill
Can't go around it
Can't go under it
We'll have to climb it.
(Pretend to push the sled while yelling, "Push!")

Refrain

We're coming to a steep slope!
It's Dalzell Gorge!
Can't go over it
Can't go under it
We'll have to go down it.
(Lean back while saying, "Careful! Careful!")

Refrain

We're coming to Farewell Burn
Can't go over it
Can't go under it
We'll have to go through it...hold on!
(Hold the sled. Swerve from side to side...yell "Haw," "Gee!" or "Straight!" and lean hard to that side)

Refrain

Shhhh! Moose! *(Whispered through the entire verse)*
Can't jump over them
Can't go under them
We'll have to sneak around them
(Use hands to look like sneaking around)

Refrain

We're coming to some overflow
Can't go over it
Can't go under it
We'll have to wade through it
(Wade/swim through it..."Brrrr, brrrr!")

Refrain

We're going down the coastline
It's so windy here
Can't go over it
Can't go under it
We'll have to push through it
(Slow motion push through; arm over face)

Refrain

We're coming to the finish line
Nome, here we come!
The crowds will cheer, our friends will shout
This is what it's all about!
Gooooo Iditarod! *(Tap legs quickly as you get louder; said in unison)*
Woof! *(Fold arms in a cool rap pose)*

Teacher notes:

Big hill - Mushers encounter hilly terrain. Often, to ease the load for the dogs, mushers will run behind the sled up hills.

Dalzell Gorge - This section of the Iditarod Trail is located in the Alaska Range between Rainy Pass and Rohn. The mushers encounter technical sled driving with switchbacks, steep descents, large rocks and ice bridges. This section is especially dangerous if there is little snow or the snow has melted and turned to ice. Sleds often get damaged here and mushers must perform repairs.

Farewell Burn - In this area, there was a huge fire and the trees were burned. There are sections of bare, windblown ground. New trees have since grown up, but it can still be tricky maneuvering through the debris. Another obstacle in this section can be Wood Bison that like to wander onto the trail. Here is a detailed description:

<http://iditarod.com/about/the-iditarod-trail/rohn-to-nikolai/>

Moose - Moose are one of the more dangerous animals for mushers and their dog teams. The large mammals prefer the packed down trail to deep snow. When a dog team approaches, the moose think the dogs are the enemy, wolves, and can attack. Mushers keep their dogs away from moose as much as possible.

Overflow - This condition occurs on the many frozen rivers the mushers and dog teams must travel upon. When the weight of the snow pushes down on the ice, the water underneath seeps up on top of the ice. Dogs and mushers must sometimes wade through this cold water.

Coastline - Once the teams come to the coast of Norton Sound, through Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, and then onto Nome, the fierce winds come in off the Bering Sea and if there is snow, make it very difficult to see. It also creates an oppressive wind chill.