

Orientation on the Iditarod Trail

Give each student a trail map and a disk or cube. Read aloud each statement as students move to the correct checkpoint or answer the question correctly.

1. The race starts here. (Willow)
2. The race ends here. (Nome)
3. This is the last checkpoint before the northern and southern trail split. (Ophir)
4. Begin at Ruby and move your cube/disk 6 checkpoints west. Where are you? (Koyuk)
5. What direction do you travel from Yentna to Nikolai? (Northwest)
6. Begin at Safety and move back on the trail 5 checkpoints. Where are you? (Shaktoolik)
7. How many checkpoints are between Finger Lake and Takotna? (4)
8. Name the 2 checkpoints between Koyuk and White Mountain. (Golovin and Elim)
9. Begin at Rohn and move forward 7 checkpoints. Where are you? (Galena)
10. Put your cube on the first checkpoint at the Bering Sea. (Unalakleet)
11. Move from McGrath to Cripple and then move another 4 checkpoints. (Kaltag)
12. Move from the official start ahead 4 checkpoints. Where are you? (Rainy Pass)
13. Move from where the northern route meets up again to the finish. How many checkpoints is that? (8)
14. If you travel from Safety to White Mountain, what direction did you go? (northeast)
15. Move from Cripple to Ophir. What direction is that? (south)

*Other Options:

- See if students can create a mnemonic to learn the checkpoint order.
- Have students create their own directional instructions for each other.
- For younger students, they can color in dots at the checkpoints.
- Create a "Chutes and Ladders" style game using the trail map.