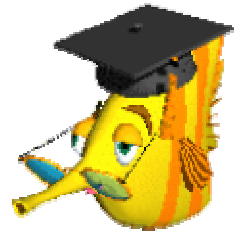


ITN

THE INNOVATIVE TEACHING NEWSLETTER



*"If the only tool you have is a hammer.....
everything around you looks like a nail."*

Science 2003

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presented by
Walter McKenzie - Surfaquarium Consulting
Innovative staff development:
Technology Applications, Multiple Intelligences,
Curriculum Integration and Creative Education.
Let's see what we can do for your staff!

elditarod registration is open and classes are signing up for our third year following the great race! Last year we set a new record with 380 classes enrolled in the project! Classes will create wall maps, study the mushers, dogs, history, geography and climate, select a team to follow, and email each project checkpoint as their team progresses in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. What makes this such a great project? Classes follow the race in real time right online! You can visit the project site at http://surfaquarium.com/e_iditarod.htm to register and follow the progress of the classes as they work through this year's project.

With the race set to begin on March 6th this year. As I have the past three years, I am showcasing the best online resources for studying the race again in this special triple issue. Here's to a great race.....and a great project!

2004 Official Iditarod Site - <http://www.iditarod.com/>

This is the official site of the Iditarod Trail Committee, and it's very comprehensive. There's lots of information here - everything you need to follow the race for FREE: history, geography, weather, news sources, strategy, mushers biographies, information on the dogs, and real time updates of the race once it begins March 2nd!! This will be a major resource for the elditarod project mentioned above.

About Alaska - <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/trade/tou/student.htm>

Presented by the state of Alaska, this site has everything your class will need to learn about state facts, economy, geography, boroughs, population, public lands, the pipeline, and so much more. I especially like the usefulness of sections on native peoples, the gold rush days, wildlife and the aurora borealis.

AKC Alaskan Malamute Page -
<http://www.akc.org/breeds/recbreeds/alasmasl.cfm>

The American Kennel Club offers wonderful, detailed information on the breed that fuels the race; the kids love the dogs and this site makes you an instant authority on their characteristics, breeding and upkeep. The entire package is nicely formatted and colorfully attractive for kids.

Alaska - http://www.education-world.com/a_sites/sites071.shtml

This is a Great Sites piece I wrote for Education World on classroom resources for the study of our 49th state. It's full of useful links you can use for a study of the history and geography of Alaska.

Alaska History Toolbox -
<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/akhistory/aktools.htm>

Great material for the teacher who wants to dig deeper into the history and culture of the land that gives us this enduring racing tradition. And look at the depth of material here. If you're looking to implement an Alaska unit in which the Iditarod is one component, this is a great place to start.

Alaska Science Explained - <http://www.alaskascience.com/>

Neal Brown hosts this site, which includes a nice segment on the Aurora Borealis and a good presentation of remote mapping to boot. There's links for further study and an interesting section on rockets that may be useful in other units you will cover this year.

Alaska Wildlife Notebook -
<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/pubs/notebook/notehome.php>

Great site on all kinds of native animals presented by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; newly designed this year.

Alaskan Iditarod Sled Dog Race, An Interactive Unit Study -
<http://www.oregontrail.net/~thesmiths/iditarod/ident.html>

Sue Smith offers this unit that's ideal for teachers just learning the race and needing some structure to find success.

Anchorage Daily News - <http://www.adn.com/iditarod/>

The ADN is a great source of information on the race as it happens - even the Official Iditarod Website links to it. Here is an archive of last year's race, including lots of information of recent dominant musher Doug Swingley and plenty of material on other past races. It is sure to be updated as this year's race gets underway.

Balto Statue -
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/SOS/4KIDS/arthist/balto.htm>

A picture of the famous Central Park statue of the brave sled dog legend; see also
<http://www.centralparknyc.org/virtualpark/southend/balto/> and
<http://fluke.theicecave.org/realbalto.shtml>

Cabela's Iditarod Race Coverage - <http://www.cabelasiditarod.com/>

Cabela's became a new major online contender for race information and updates last year. Cabela's is an outdoors outfitter that is now an official sponsor of the race. The site is a combination of free access to information and offers for all kinds of merchandise. If you can't find it at the official race site, look here!

Dog Mushing and Iditarod Coverage - <http://dogsled.com/>

Dogsled.com has long been a first class home base for covering the Iditarod. They tend to bend a little more towards the human interest side of the race, so it's definitely designed for use with kids. It's so full of information it can be kind of busy as you scroll down the page, but it's 100% information with little or no filler!

Dream A Dream - Reach a Goal - <http://home.insightbb.com/~dbuccola/IDWbquest.htm>

Dennis Buccola's Iditarod WebQuest that challenges students to take on the roles of a television investigative news team. Links are current and the scavenger hunt is an added bonus.

English Musher Max Hall - <http://www.maxhall.com/>

For a completely novel point of view, check out Max Hall and his dogs as they travel across the pond to participate in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race each year. Then focus is on Max and his team, with data on past races and race history, as well.

Fascinating Facts - <http://www.bena.com/lucidcafe/library/itarod2.html>

Lots of trivia and historical facts you may not know yourself, or you may want to use to stump and impress your students.

Gary Paulsen - <http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/special/kay/paulsen.html>

This Paulsen page covers all his books, many of which have to do with dogs and sledding - never mind the fact that he's an awesome writer. N.B. Woodsong, Dogsong and Dogteam.

Goose Lake Kennel - <http://www.huskyhomestead.com/>

Jeff and Cali King's home page dedicated to the sport and their dogs, in particular. A nice up-close-and-personal look at the year-round life of a team.

Iditarod - <http://www2.grand-forks.k12.nd.us/ms/itarod/itarod.html>

Jeanie Olsen's activities for implementing the race in the classroom. A must see for middle school teachers!

Iditarod Air Force - <http://www.iditarodairforce.com/>

Get past the tiled backgrounds and you'll find one of the true human interest stories of the race: the pilots who fly in and out of each checkpoint with dogs and supplies.

Iditarod Art - <http://www.jonvanzyle.com/iditarod.htm>

I don't promote commercial products, so this link is not offered as a sales pitch; but if you're looking for some beautiful Iditarod images you may want to spend some time here.

Iditarod: Fact not Fiction - <http://sunhusky.com/Facts/>

June Price offers this rebuttal to those who allege that the Iditarod is cruel to animals, including pictures, facts and responses from Dr. John Bramante, Dr. Michael Davis and Janet Oates of the Alaska Service Area branch of the Providian Health System.

Iditarod 411 - <http://www.designperfect.com/iditarod/>

More links (some duplicated) that help you delve into the many facets of a classroom Iditarod study, but hurry - Jan says site is still up as of this date!

Iditarod in the Classroom - <http://www.rims.k12.ca.us/iditarod/class/>

Bulletin board for teachers plus books and activities covering Language Arts, Math, Science and the Social Studies

Iditarod Jigsaw Puzzle - <http://www.surfnetkids.com/games/iditarod-js.htm>

Barbara Feldman offers this Flash-based puzzle of a dogsled team crossing the open trail; just use your mouse to move each piece into place. Just for fun.

Iditarod: The Last Great Race - http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson103.shtml

This is an article I wrote for Education World back in 1999 that offers lots of curriculum connections for teachers wanting to make their room come alive this Winter celebrating this unique race.

Iditarod 2000 Unit - <http://www.alexandriacentral.org/cove/iditarod.html>

A group of fifth graders at Cove Kid Elementary in New York hosted this unit on the race that is easily adaptable to any race year. Links include history, rules, the dogs and sled gear.

Iditarod: Race Across Alaska - <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/iditarod/>

Scholastic has put together this presentation on the Iditarod with help from veteran mushers Martin Buser and Mitch Seavey. The teacher's guide brings together Standards Correlations, Lesson Plans and Skill sheets to boot. You'll have to ignore the commercial pitches, but the content is fairly good.

Libby Riddles - <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/space/frontiers/riddles.html>

Libby was the first woman to win the Iditarod, and this NASA feature is part of their Female Frontiers presentation online.

Mathline: Iditarod -

<http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/mathline/concepts/itarod.shtm>

PBS TeacherSource presents this collection of ideas for integrating the Iditarod into your Math instruction; many ideas easily adaptable for the Iditarod project.

Mrs. Morgan's Great Iditarod Adventure -

<http://www.gis.net/~kmorgan/itarod/Iditarod/>

Ann Morgan first posted this page this past year with all kinds of ideas for using the Iditarod in the classroom. She even had musher Jeff King conduct a telephone interview with her class prior to last year's race! You'll want to peruse her site before beginning your own Iditarod adventure!

Mrs. O-VD'st Iditarod Adventure -

<http://home.centurytel.net/vanopst/Iditarod/index.htm>

OK so the page transitions are distracting, the instructional information is useful and the links to offbeat resources like Moosecam make it worth the stop.

Mushing - <http://www.mushing.com/>

Online version of the magazine devoted to sled dog racing; there's a good bit of information available here without having to get tangled up in subscription rates.

Peterson's Iditarod 2003 - <http://dpeterson1.homestead.com/itarod.html>

A nice approach to studying the race in the classroom, including the Iditarod Kid Race; includes several printable worksheets.

Ramy Brooks - <http://www.ramybrooks.com/>

Ramy is a regular in the Iditarod race and this page offers a personal glimpse at the man and his dogs. This page not only offers personal insights, but presents human interest stories you won't find anywhere else about the dogs. Consider "Who are the favorite dogs of the Iditarod?" and "How do the dogs get home from Nome?"

Schools from the Iditarod District -

<http://www.iditarodsd.org/Pages/schoolwebpg.html>

Want to learn more about the schools along the trail? Here's a great collection of the school web sites.

Slide Show of the Iditarod - <http://www.iditarodtours.com/slideshow.htm>

This fast-paced collection of images is presented by Alaska Iditarod Tours; the slide show works on a Windows platform only. Mac photo fans can see Bill Borden's gallery at <http://www.cooldreams.net/gallery/race>.

Stephen R. Lee's Mushing Home Page - <http://www.ooowoo.com/>

Here's coverage of the basics of mushing in simple, easy to understand format ! The Junior Mushers link is especially fascinating for teachers who would like to allow their students to immerse themselves in all it takes to become a musher on the trail. Check out the detailed directions on how to build your own dog sled - all from a musher who lives in New Mexico!

Support Your Musher - <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/jefferson/science/ident.htm>

Jill Olsen presents this WebQuest with multiple links for each online source, so that even if one link is dead in a particular part of the process you still have options. The assessment tools are a nice addition.

Ten Math Work Sheets Teach About the Iditarod - http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson302.shtml

Education World offers these ready-to-print Acrobat files that help Math teachers integrate the race into instruction; includes computation, averaging, percents, fractions and elapsed time.

Thousand Mile Dog Race - <http://www.niti.org/users/tushka/identarod/identarod.html>

In this visually pleasing Math lesson, students practice measurement and multiples using the Iditarod for content.

Tilford on the Trail - <http://www.vinton-shellsburg.k12.ia.us/tms/seventh/rdg7/identarod/ident.htm>

Judy Mitschelen brings together a great collection of information for anyone learning about the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. There's history, fascinating facts, and in-depth information. The musher's links need to be updated, but if Judy's true to form she'll have them updated before the race is close. Definitely worth a look!

Ultimate Iditarod - <http://www.ultimateidentarod.com/>

This site touts itself as an inside look at the race and may be worth your consideration in planning for this year's event.

Veterinary Educational Team - <http://www.drsonny.com/Default.htm>

Now dated, this site still contains valuable information "about the sport of sled dog racing, including the humanitarian treatment of the animals used in arctic life."

Who Wants to be a Millionaire? - <http://webhome.crk.umn.edu/~dlim/Flash/identarod.html>

Great use of Flash technology to create an interactive screen that is modeled after the popular game show format. The questions get tough, so make sure your kids have done their homework!

Wild-Eyed Alaska - <http://www.hhmi.org/Alaska/>

This site is dedicated to the wild life of Alaska - beautiful pics, audio and video clips; a great Science extension for your Iditarod unit. Featured animals include Puffins, Gulls, Chicks and a variety of underwater animals.

Women of the Iditarod - <http://library.thinkquest.org/11313/Iditarod/?tqskip1=1&tqtime=1206>

The good news is ThinkQuest is getting their archive of entries back up. The even better news is this site on Susan Butcher, Libby Riddles, DeeDee Jonrowe and Mary Shields is available once again!

Working Dog Web - <http://www.workingdogweb.com/Iditarod.htm>

Lots of information here and some teacher links too. The nice child-friendly design makes it easy to incorporate into your class studies. Topics include Race History, the Iditarod Trail, Dogs & Mushers, News Media Coverage, Equipment & Strategy and Iditarod in the Classroom.

Find More Great Resources at <http://surfaquarium.com/it.htm>

Next Month's Topic: "Books, Books and More Books!"

You can email URL's of high quality sites which may be of interest to our readers as well as new topic ideas and input and feedback to walter@surfaquarium.com

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