

Iditarod Literature Focus Unit



Carson Fuchs
EDU 315

Literature Selection

Nonfiction

- Dogs of the Iditarod by Jeff Schultz
- Iditarod Country: Exploring the Route of the Last Great Race by Tricia Brown
- Susan Butcher: Sled Dog Racer by Ginger Wadsworth
- Susan Butcher and the Iditarod Trail by Ellen M. Dolan
- Mush Across Alaska in the World's Largest Sled Dog Race by Patricia Siebert
- Up on Denali: Alaska's Wild Mountain by Shelley Gill
- Alaska by Shelley Gill
- Arctic Memories by Normee Ekoomiak
- The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto by Natalie Sanford and Donald Cook

Literature Selection Continued...

Fiction

- Balto — Sled Dog of Alaska by LaVere Anderson
- Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
- Race Against Death by Seymour Reit
- Over in the Arctic: Where the Cold Winds Blow by Marianne Berkes
- Granite by Susan Butcher and David Monson
- The Iditarod: Greatest Win Ever by Monica Devine
- The Stolen Sun: A Story of Native Alaska by Amanda Hall
- Arctic Fives Survive: by Elinor J. Pincezes
- Sled Dogs Run by Jonathan London and Illustrated by Jon Van Zyke

Theme Study

- Students will participate in thematic unit on the Iditarod, the long distance sled-dog race held annually in Alaska. This unit integrates reading and writing with social studies, mathematics, science, art and music, and physical education.
- Students will develop an understanding of The Iditarod as a symbol of Alaskan/Inuit culture, historical relevance, sled dog racing, the animals and their owners that race, and the environmental conditions they overcome.

Language Arts: Reading Activities

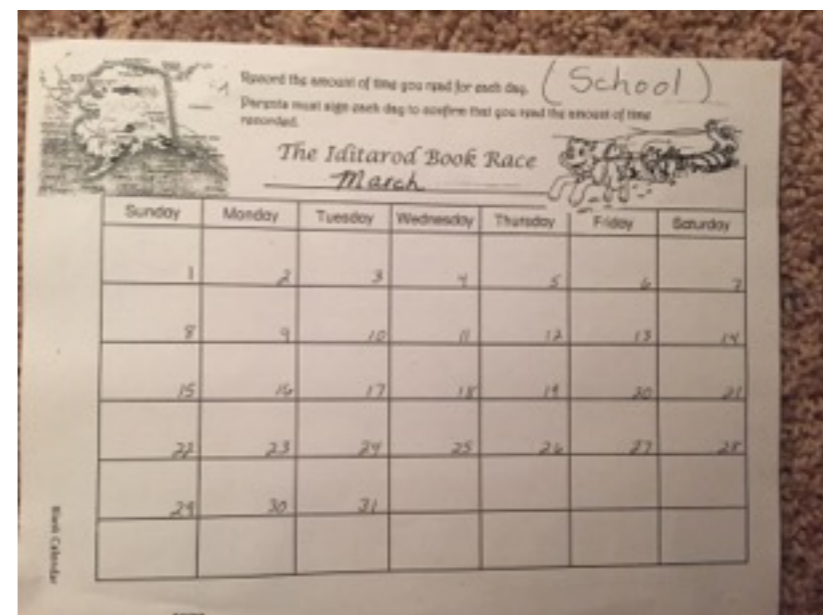
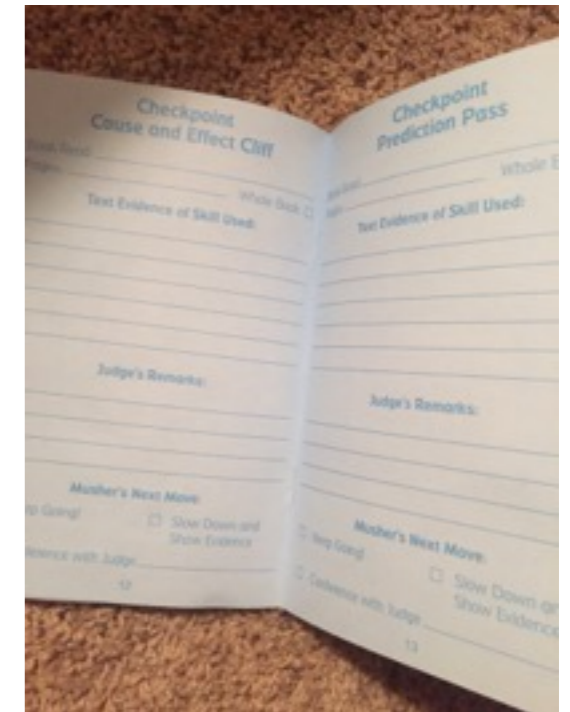
- Students will read various fiction and non-fiction books and articles about the Iditarod through silent reading, partner reading, guided reading and read aloud.
- Teacher will read aloud from Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
- Students will read and perform research on the Iditarod using online resources.
- Students will read stories, reports, poems and reflections to peers and whole group.
- Students will read Race Against Death by Seymour Rett in small groups.

Language Arts: Reading Activity Standards

- *RL.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text
- *RI.1 Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
- *RI.9 Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Language Arts Reading Activity Lesson Examples:

- **The Great Reading Run (Daily 5 option)**
 - Students complete “Checkpoints” in their reading such as Comprehension, Summarizing, Inferences, Predictions, Compare and Contrast, etc.
- **Iditarod Book Race**
 - Students will record the amount they read at home daily for the month of March, racing each other in amount of minutes completed in the 31 days.



Language Arts: Writing Activities

- Students will create newspaper articles and put together individual Iditarod issue.
- Students will write Simulated Journals from the perspective of assigned musher.
- Students will write daily reflections from Stone Fox read aloud.
- Students will create fiction and nonfiction stories about Alaska, Sled Dog Racing, and the Iditarod.
- Students will do compare and contrast writing Balto —Sled Dog of Alaska and The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto with Disney's Balto movie.

Language Arts: Writing Activity Standards

- *W.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- *W. 4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- W.1 *Write opinion pieces* on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- *W3. Write narratives* to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Language Arts: Writing Activity Lesson Example

- Iditarod Issue: Students create articles including current events, history, and weather about the Iditarod and put them together to create their own newspaper.



Language Arts: Speaking Activities

- Students will put together a News Team Role Play from the perspective of the 1925 serum run in Nome, Alaska and report to the class.
- Students will participate in grand conversation about Stone Fox read aloud.
- Students will participate in small group discussions of Race Against Death by Seymour Rett.

Language Arts: Speaking Activity Standards

- *SL.4 Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.
- *SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Language Arts: Listening Activities

- Students will listen to audio versions of Iditarod, sled-dog, and Alaska literature. Example: *Race to Nome!* by Amy Helfer and Kelley Beaurline
- Students will listen to teacher's discussions on Iditarod, sled-dog racing, Alaska geography and climate, and historical information.
- Students will listen to peer opinions during discussions.
- Students will listen to reports and news presentations on the Iditarod.

Language Arts: Listening Activity Standards

- SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions(one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- SL.2 Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Language Arts: Viewing Activities

- Students will view images of the Iditarod, Sled Dogs and their mushers, and Alaska.
- Students will view videos. (See technology)
- Students will view sculptures and monuments dedicated to figures of Alaska and the Iditarod.
- Students will view each others' newspaper issues.
- Students will view each others' News Reports
- Students will view various websites as they conduct research for their presentations.
- Students will watch Disney's Balto.

Language Arts: Visually Representing Activities

- Students will display created newspaper issues in classroom.
- Students will have visual display of Iditarod Book Race that documents their progress throughout the month.
- Students will display Iditarod themed artwork.
- Students will display designed monuments/ sculptures of “Heroes of the Iditarod”

Science Activities

- Students will study weather changes and climate typical of Alaska — Vocabulary including blizzard, winter solstice, Arctic Circle, tundra
- Students will record weather conditions daily in Musher Journal (Reference to general weather, travel conditions, expected storms)
- Students will identify plants and animals that survive in Alaska, detailing their adaptations, forms of sustenance and potential predators relevant to Iditarod competitors.
- Students will conduct “How Animals Survive in Freezing Temps” experiment (KWL Chart)
- Students will complete KWL Chart about Alaskan Mountain range formation and plate tectonics.
- Students will investigate the Diphtheria outbreak of 1925 and the antitoxin used to combat it.

Science Activity Standards

- *5-ESS1-2. Represent data in graphical displays to reveal patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.
- *4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
- 4-ESS1-1. Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time.

Mathematics Activities

- Students will participate in Math Run similar to Reading Run, completing checkpoints of Math Exercises (coordinate with book/unit) as a team.
- Students will compute daily mileage of assigned Musher by adding up total mileage and subtracting to present mileage remaining.
- Students will practice conversion principles in the form of miles to kilometers and fahrenheit to celsius.
- Students will create graphs of weather fluctuations.
- Students will create of graph of mileage per day.

Mathematics Standards

- *5.NF.2 Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions referring to the same whole, including cases of unlike denominators, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.
- *4.NBT.4 Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
- 5.MD.1 Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within a given measurement system (e.g., convert 5 cm to 0.05 m), and use these conversions in solving multi-step, real world problems.
- *5.G.2 Represent real world and mathematical problems by graphing points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane, and interpret coordinate values of points in the context of the situation.

Social Studies Activities

- Students will study the origins of the Iditarod.
- Students will include historical pieces as well as current events in their Iditarod Issues.
- Students will research current events in Alaska throughout the Iditarod.
- Students will watch news broadcasts of the Iditarod. (www.iditarod.com/live-broadcast-replay)
- Students will create maps of the topography of Alaska

Social Studies Activity Standards

- *5.2.2 Describe similarities and differences between past events and current events in U.S. history (e.g., in the lives of people from different cultures past and present)
- *4.1.4 Interpret current events using print and electronic media (e.g., newspaper, children's news magazines, television, Internet)
- *5.1.1 Interpret and compare maps of the United States (i.e., political, physical, thematic)

Music and Art Activities

- Students will create visuals/artistic elements in their Iditarod Issue.
- Students will design monuments to “Hero’s of the Iditarod”
- Students will use various painting techniques to paint Alaskan terrain/tundra landscapes.
- Students will listen to traditional Inuit music.
- Students will include artwork in their Musher Journals.

Music and Art Standards

- *4.1.5 Know how different visual art media*, techniques*, and processes* are used to communicate ideas, experience, and stories.
- *4.2.3 Use visual art structures* and functions of works of art to communicate ideas.
- *4.1.2 Know the different techniques* used to create* visual art.
- *4.6.2 Know a variety of styles* representing diverse cultures.
- *4.6.4 Know the sounds of a variety of instruments and voices from various cultures.
- *4.6.5 Understand the relationship between music and movement.

Physical Education Activities

- Students will participate in relay races (Extension: Serum Run of 1925)
- Students will complete obstacle course set up as dog sled team: 10 and 1
- Students will learn Traditional Inuit dancing
- Students will be given equal materials and asked to assemble a shelter in teams

Physical Education Standards

- *S2. E3 Applies movement concepts to strategy in game situations.
- *S2.E5 Applies simple offensive strategies and tactics in chasing and fleeing activities
- *S2.E1 Combines spatial concepts with locomotor and non-locomotor movements for small groups in gymnastics, rhythmic activities dance/ rhythmic activities or game environments
- *S1. E5 Combines locomotor skills in cultural as well as creative rhythmic activities/dances (self and group) with correct rhythm and pattern.
- *S1. E11 Combines locomotor skills and movement concepts (e.g., levels, shapes, extensions, pathways, force, time, flow) to create and perform a rhythmic activities/dance with a group

Technology

- www.iditarod.com
- <http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/other-shows/videos/other-shows-iditarod-videos/>
- CNN Student News
- *Student researched Online Resources* (Example: www.enchantedlearning.com/usa/states/alaska/iditarod/)
- Education World: The Iditarod http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson103.shtml
- Online images and Digital Photography (www.google.com)
- Disney's Balto
- Online Newspapers/Articles
- Race to Nome! Audio Book

Language Arts Strategies

- Activating Background Knowledge: Students will think about what they already know about Alaska, the Iditarod, and Dog Sledding.
- Brainstorming: Students will think of ideas to contribute to their reflections, Iditarod Issues, Role Plays, and writing assignments.
- Connecting: Students will connect personal experiences and the world around them with what they are learning to create Simulated Journals, reflections, role playing, and participation in group discussion.
- Predicting & Monitoring: Students will predict and monitor the progress of their assigned musher using graphs, simulated journals, Iditarod Live Broadcast and other online research.
- Playing with Language: Students will use creative language to produce Iditarod Issue articles, News Reports, reflections, and stories.
- Revising: Students will create rough drafts of writing assignments to be peer edited and revised.
- Visualizing: Students will create pictures in their minds, perform role plays, and portray visions in their projects.

Language Arts Skills

- Print: Students will create pieces of their own writing, recognize print in News Articles
- Comprehension: Students will complete Reading Run Comprehension mini-lesson. Students will recognize fiction, nonfiction, and informational literature. Students will compare and contrast fiction, nonfiction, and film (Balto), Students will apply historical knowledge to the Iditarod race.
- Language: Students will apply language skills in writing assignments such as stories, Iditarod Issue, and Simulated Journal
- Reference: Students will create maps, graphs, role play reports as well as perform research using newspaper articles and online resources.

Grouping Patterns

- Large Group: Grand conversations, Music activities, viewing videos and live broadcasts, Stone Fox read-aloud, peer presentations, Balto movie, traditional dancing
- Small Group: Reading Run, Math Run, News Team, small group reading, P.E. Activities (obstacle course, relay race, shelter build), peer reviews, Role plays
- Individual: Iditarod Book Race, Simulated Journals, reflections, poems, Art projects, Iditarod Issues, maps, graphs

Monday**Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday**

Language Arts	*Stone Fox read aloud *reflections/discussion *Introduce Iditarod Issue Project *Begin Assigned Musher Journal	*Small Group Reading *Reading Run Balto Book #1 *Musher Journal	*Small Group Reading *Reading Run Balto Book #2 *Musher Journal	*Stone Fox read aloud *reflections/discussion *Musher Journal	Watch Disney's Balto
Art/Music	View photos and video of Iditarod	*Paint Iditarod/ Alaska Landscapes	Collect photographs and other visual aids for Iditarod Issue	*Create "Heroes of the Iditarod" monument	Listen to traditional Inuit Music
P.E.	"Serum" Relay Race	Sledding	Sledding team obstacle course	Assemble a shelter Challenge	Learn/Perform Traditional Inuit Dance
Math	*Math Run *Record Musher Mileage	*Math Run *Record Musher Mileage	*Math Run *Record Musher Mileage	*Iditarod themed conversions —miles-kilometers, degrees-celsius *Record Musher Mileage	*Complete final mileage graphs & data
Science	*Learn about environment of Alaska *Record Alaska weather in journal	*Video on Alaska climate *Record Alaska weather in journal	"How Animals Survive in Icy Climate" experiment	*Alaskan Mountain Ranges & Plate Tectonics (KWL) *Weather in Journal	*Complete final weather graphs & data
Social Studies	*History of the Iditarod discussion *Iditarod Issue Research	*Watch "The Serum Run to Nome" documentary *Work on Iditarod Issue	Complete map of Alaska Including Iditarod Race route and checkpoints	*Iditarod Issue (peer edit)	*Iditarod Issue Final draft *Balto Discussion

Assessments

- Iditarod Issue Newspaper: Rubric
- 1925 News Team role plays: Rubric
- Completion of Math and Reading Runs: key
- Musher Simulated Journal — predictions, reflections, information, mileage, weather: Checklist
 - (Includes Science, Math, Language Arts, and Social Studies)
- Participation in Grand Conversations
- Art Portfolio: Iditarod Issue, Monument design, Arctic landscapes
- Informal observation
- Participation in small group discussion
- Active participation in Physical Education and Music lessons
- “How Animals Survive in Icy Climate”: KWL