

Sled Dog Teamwork - Anchorage to Nome

Developed by: Lynne Witte

Discipline / Subject: Reading, Language Arts, Geography, History

Topic: Writing Postcards from Iditarod Checkpoints

Grade Level: 2-5

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters, or The Jolly Christmas Postman by Janet and Allan Ahlberg (1986) Little Brown & Co.

The Armadillo from Amarillo by Lynne Cherry (1994) Harcourt Brace & Co.

The Great Serum Race by Debbie S. Miller (2002) Walker Publishing Co.

<http://www.iditarod.com/learn/iditarodtrail.html> for Iditarod checkpoint information

Optional: Microsoft Power Point

Lesson Summary:

Students will be using The Jolly Postman and Armadillo from Amarillo as a springboard to write a postcard from an Iditarod checkpoint. The Great Serum Race (or other historical appropriate book) will introduce the students to the historical role of the Iditarod Trail for the delivery of mail.

Standard's Addressed:

GLE 0201.3.1 Write in a variety of modes for a variety of audiences and purposes.

GLE 0201.3.2 Write in response to literature (e.g., create a new ending to a story, create class books, summarize a story), compose a variety of written works (e.g., friendly letters, journal entries, reports, experience stories) and begin to compose narrative (with a beginning, middle, and end).

G4.0.2 Describe the means people create for moving people, goods, and ideas within the local community

H2.0.5 Identify a problem in a community's past and describe how it was resolved.

<p>Learning objectives: Students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read and discuss <u>The Jolly Postman</u> 2. Read and discuss <u>Armadillo from Amarillo</u> 3. Explore history of Iditarod mail trail 4. Explore geographical location of Iditarod checkpoints 5. Compose a postcard that includes a short letter, name and address, and postcard design 6. Students will appreciate the importance of sled dogs and musher working together as a team 	<p>Assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students can locate Alaska on a world map. 2. Students can complete a postcard letter complete with an address in the appropriate spaces. 3. Students can recall information of their chosen Iditarod checkpoint. 4. Students will illustrate the checkpoint on a postcard.
<p>Procedural Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher will read <u>The Jolly Postman</u> (or similar story). 2. Teacher will teach/review a map of Alaska and the Iditarod trail route. 3. Teacher will read or share storybook <u>Armadillo from Amarillo</u> for examples of postcards written from different communities. 4. Together the class and teacher will decide a fictitious name and address in Nome, Alaska 99762 to write the postcards. (e.g. Nanook Husky, 1049 Serum Trail, Nome, AK 99762) 5. Students choose a checkpoint to research .Use the Iditarod website for locating information on the checkpoints. 6. Students will compose a postcard letter from their chosen checkpoint. Example: “Dear Nanook, I’m here at White Mountain Library along the Fish River waiting for the mail team to arrive. It is very cold and windy. The next mail stop is Safety and then to Nome. See you soon. <p style="text-align: right;">Your friend, Silver”</p> 7. Illustrate a picture of the checkpoint on the postcard. 8. Make a class flip book of the postcards in the order from Anchorage to Nome. 	

Materials Students Need:

List of Iditarod Checkpoints <http://www.iditarod.com/learn/iditarodtrail.html>

Samples of Postcards

Paper

Pencil

Art supplies for coloring (e.g., crayons, colored pencils, markers)

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Microsoft Power Point

Internet for pictures of Iditarod checkpoints from

<http://www.iditarod.com/learn/iditarodtrail.html>

Launch Power Point

Using draw tools draw a line down the middle, starting from the top. This will be the back of the postcard, where the message, name and address, and stamp are located.

Students will make their postcard, print it, and then write their friendly letter in the appropriate space.

Other Information

Teachers will have the opportunity to share the importance of working together to accomplish a goal.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

1. Students can work with a peer partner or a buddy from an older classroom to write the postcard.
2. Student(s) can prepare a Power Point presentation of a postcard from each Iditarod checkpoint.
3. Students will write a letter to an Iditarod musher at the completion of the race using the guidelines and addresses as specified by the Iditarod Education Committee.
4. Students will complete a Trail Mail Project to be carried by an Iditarod musher. Example: Write a cooperative class letter describing their school and community. Send it along with a class picture to Leo Rasmussen for the Iditarod Trail Mail Project.

School Projects Head to Nome

by Diane Johnson

03/09/2008

Trail Mail School Project Update

What is in the musher's sled bag? You know that there are required items that must be in each musher's sled. Did you know that one of the items is a promotional packet sometimes called Trail Mail or Iditarod Cachets? Did you know that in the trail mail packages, wrapped in plastic and secured with duct tape, along with Iditarod promotional materials, contain school projects from around the world?

Each year, Leo Rasmussen of Nome, conducts a project for classrooms, inviting them to get involved in the Iditarod by sending a project to Leo. The projects are placed with the promotional materials that are carried in the musher's sled.

This year, 151 school projects arrived in Nome. On Friday, February 29, Leo was at the Millennium with the trail mail packages. Leo and his volunteer were busy organizing the trail mail promotional packets and putting the musher's bib numbers on the packages. Leo stated that he was very pleased with the record number of packages that had been sent to him this year, making it possible for most mushers to carry two projects in the trail mail.

When each musher arrives in Nome, the trail mail of promotional materials will be collected. The school projects will be sorted out and later sent by postal mail back to the classrooms submitting projects. What excitement there will be in the classrooms when the mail is returned to them!

If your classroom was involved in this year's project, drop us an email when your project returns to your students. We'd like to hear what project you did and who carried your project from Anchorage to Nome. We'd like to share with our readers, the kinds of projects that went to Nome, so teachers can start to plan their projects for next year. This is an incredible way for classrooms around the world to be 'in the race'. Thanks to Leo and his volunteers for all of the work that is done to connect schools to the trail through his project.

Tuck this project idea away in your planner for next year and bookmark the following website which gives information about this project. Some of the project schools are located on the following website, as well as information as to which musher is carrying the trail mail.

<http://www.leaknomeak.com/IditarodEducationalProject.htm>

You can read about the mandatory items in the sled and other race rules by clicking the tab: For Mushers and then downloading the race rules. <http://www.iditarod.com/mushers/Iditarodrules.html>

Notes: