

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 6

TRAIL *Tails*

✧ Welcome ✧

I would like to welcome you to my journey as I set out on an adventure of a lifetime. My goal is to share the connections, from Florida to Alaska, that the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race has made for my students. Along this voyage, I challenge you to make your own connections as you travel the trail with me.

ADAPTATIONS

When Kenai came to live with us in Florida, we were worried that she might have a difficult time adjusting to the warm weather. As the summer turned to fall and then to winter, we watched and waited for her coat to change - to thicken with an undercoat. To our surprise, it never did. A year later, Kenai's coat has stayed thin, with no undercoat.

Left: Kenai shows how she stays warm down in Florida!

This has raised many questions among students here in Florida.

As students grapple with these questions, I encourage them to investigate adaptations and how they play a role in

animal survival. Take a look at the fur of a husky that lives in Alaska and then compare it to Kenai's fur. What does this show? Why doesn't Kenai get that thick undercoat that huskies living in Alaska get? What can you hypothesize about climatic adaptations?



Kenai's Korner

Kenai is my 1 year old Alaskan husky. She was given to me by Lynda Plettner. She joined our family in the summer of 2005 and has been a wonderful addition. She has one doggie brother and two doggie sisters: Tar, our black lab; Jackson, a German short haired pointer; and Zoe, a miniature long haired dachshund.

I am giving Kenai her own section in my newsletter, so she can enlighten you with her tales. Look for her stories in the next edition.

