



Iditarod  
Webquest:

Adapted by  
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for 4<sup>th</sup>  
grade



Actual  
race  
Begins  
on  
The 1<sup>st</sup>  
Saturday  
In March



### Task:

To convince your parents that Alaska is the best place to go for a vacation, your class is going to learn as much as they can about the race, Alaska, and the people that live there. To add to the fun, the class will act as a TV news team to gather information. There will be 5 types of reporters. Each one will cover one of the following topics: history, geography, art and culture, math, and science. We will have a live newscast that will be taped for parents to view.



### History Reporters

What are you going to tell your parents when they ask about the Iditarod? Write down everything you learn about what it takes to be a successful musher. How do they prepare for a race?

Here are some key questions for you to search for to help you prepare for your history presentation.

1. How many miles long is the Iditarod?
2. What city does the Iditarod start in?

3. What year did the Iditarod first run?
4. Who is the "Father/Mother" of the Iditarod? Why is he/she called that?
5. What does the word "Iditarod" mean? What language is it?
6. What is the fewest number of dogs that a team can run with? What is the maximum number of dogs? (At the start and finish)
7. What is the Red Lantern award? Why is it called that and to whom is it awarded?
8. Who is Balto and where is he now?
9. Who is Togo and where is he now?
10. The official length of the race has significant meaning. What do the numbers refer to?
11. What are the six items a musher must have with him/her at all times?
12. How many mandatory stops must a musher take during the race?
13. How long must a passed team wait before remain behind before demanding the trail?
14. What happens if a big game animal is killed along the race route?
15. What is the minimum age a musher must be in order to enter?
16. How is the official finish determined?
17. How can a musher be automatically disqualified?
18. How does the musher control the direction of the dog team?
19. What is the nickname that has been given to the Iditarod?



## Geography Reporters

1. It will also be important for you to know about the area you will be visiting. Is it mountainous, flat, rough... You will design and create a map that marks the journey you will be taking following the Iditarod race. Be prepared to tell mom and dad the correct [terms](#) used for type of land you will be traveling through.
2. You might want to visit other areas of Alaska while there. Find some interesting sites such as national parks or landmarks your family might like to see.



## Math Reporters

We know how much preparation goes into the race for these racers. There are so many details. We want to show your parents how much food it takes at each checkpoint to feed the dogs. You will need to write a short word problem on how to figure out how much food is required for the dogs at each point. Can you think of a creative way to demonstrate this during the presentation?



## Science Reporters

The Aurora Borealis are a beautiful phenomena that are highly visible in the Alaskan night sky. Learn about the "Northern Lights" also known as the Aurora Borealis. What are the "Northern Lights"? What effects do these lights make on the race?



## Art and Cultural Reporters

Your parents will surely want to see these beautiful lights and you can give them a taste by creating a painting of them using the "condensed milk paint" instructions.

### Condensed Milk Paint

1 can condensed milk  
food coloring

Pour small amounts of condensed milk into several small containers ( a 6 cup muffin tin works well). Add 2 or 3 drops of different colors of food coloring to each container and stir. Although this method is expensive, it makes vibrant, gorgeous colors and is well worth doing once a year.



Remember the learning never stops! We just rest in between the learning.



### Resources

<a href="http://www.ultimateiditarod.com/faq.htm">http://www.ultimateiditarod.com/faq.htm</a> Must read: questions and answers	<a href="http://www.adn.com/iditarod/">http://www.adn.com/iditarod/</a> Anchorage Daily News
<a href="http://www.lincnet.org/hms/grade4/iditarod/iditarod.quest.html">http://www.lincnet.org/hms/grade4/iditarod/iditarod.quest.html</a> Must read: webquest for 4 <sup>th</sup> grade with questions to answer and great links	<a href="http://www.dogsled.com/">http://www.dogsled.com/</a> All the adventure - none of the frostbite! Great photos, a Kids Zone, weather and calendar of events.
<a href="http://education.nmsu.edu/webquest/wq/iditarod/">http://education.nmsu.edu/webquest/wq/iditarod/</a> original newscast webquest  <a href="http://climate.gi.alaska.edu/Curtis/curtis.html">http://climate.gi.alaska.edu/Curtis/curtis.html</a> northern lights	<a href="http://www.alaska.net/~design/scenes/iditarod/iditarod.html">http://www.alaska.net/~design/scenes/iditarod/iditarod.html</a> A description of the first day of the race, and a short history. Great photos at the site from the 1996 race. <a href="http://www.kidskonnnect.com/Iditarod/IditarodHome.html">http://www.kidskonnnect.com/Iditarod/IditarodHome.html</a> facts about the iditarod
<a href="http://www.sleddogcentral.com">http://www.sleddogcentral.com</a> Lots of links to sites with information about sled dogs and dog sled racing.	<a href="http://www.buserdog.com/buserdog">http://www.buserdog.com/buserdog</a> The web site of three time winner Martin Buser.
<a href="http://www.adn.com/iditarod/index.html">http://www.adn.com/iditarod/index.html</a> Daily reports and news from the trail. Includes photos from the race, history and a Hall of Fame.	<a href="http://library.thinkquest.org/11313/Iditarod/index.html">http://library.thinkquest.org/11313/Iditarod/index.html</a> Biographies of the four women who have won the Iditarod.
<a href="http://www.workingdogweb.com/Iditarod.htm">http://www.workingdogweb.com/Iditarod.htm</a> Links to the sleddog sport	<a href="http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/iditarod/historic/index.asp?article=historic_iditarod">http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/iditarod/historic/index.asp?article=historic_iditarod</a>
<a href="http://www.sleddog.com">http://www.sleddog.com</a> A British site on sled dogs.	<a href="http://www.iditarod.com/information/info.htm">http://www.iditarod.com/information/info.htm</a> everything you need to know about an iditarod
<a href="http://www3.northstar.k12.ak.us/schools/awehome/ernst/alaskanfacts.html">http://www3.northstar.k12.ak.us/schools/awehome/ernst/alaskanfacts.html</a> Alaska facts	<a href="http://mail.colonial.net/%7Eshoward/IditPhotos/IditPhotos.html">http://mail.colonial.net/%7Eshoward/IditPhotos/IditPhotos.html</a> photos
<a href="http://aprn.org/iditarod/index.html">http://aprn.org/iditarod/index.html</a> Alaska Public Radio Network	<a href="http://www.midgefrazel.net/wqiditarod.html">http://www.midgefrazel.net/wqiditarod.html</a> race cams
<a href="http://www.adn.com/iditarod/news/video/">http://www.adn.com/iditarod/news/video/</a> ceremony start clips	<a href="http://www.ultimateiditarod.com/trailnotes.htm">http://www.ultimateiditarod.com/trailnotes.htm</a> checkpoints
<a href="http://baltosource.timduru.org/balto-act-b1mul-ong-1.html">http://baltosource.timduru.org/balto-act-b1mul-ong-1.html</a> soundtrack of movie music	<a href="http://mikids.com/">http://mikids.com/</a> iditarod links with game Want to be a millionaire?
<a href="http://www.iditarod.com/">http://www.iditarod.com/</a> official iditarod site	<a href="http://www.cabelasiditarod.com/index.html">http://www.cabelasiditarod.com/index.html</a> official information
<a href="http://www.dogsled.com/kidszone/">http://www.dogsled.com/kidszone/</a>	<a href="http://www2.lucidcafe.com/lucidcafe/library/iditarod.html">http://www2.lucidcafe.com/lucidcafe/library/iditarod.html</a> History of the Iditarod
<a href="http://www.mikids.com/Iditarodimages.htm">http://www.mikids.com/Iditarodimages.htm</a> Iditarod pictures	<a href="http://webhome.crk.umn.edu/~dlim/Flash/iditarod.html">http://webhome.crk.umn.edu/~dlim/Flash/iditarod.html</a> Who Wants to be a Millionaire? (Hopefully will return when the race begins.



# Musher Bio-Poems



In this activity, you will create your own biographical poems about the musher you have chosen to follow in this year's race. You may find it beneficial to use the [Official Iditarod website](#) for musher information. There are some helpful musher biographical data there for you to read through.

First line	Write your musher's first name.
Second line	Write three (3) positive adjectives that describe your musher.
Third line	Write "Who likes..." and two to four things your musher might like.
Fourth line	Write "Who feels..." and a short phrase to finish the thought.
Fifth line	Write "Who needs..." and a short phrase to finish the thought.
Sixth line	Write "Who would like to see..." and a short phrase to finish the thought.
Seventh line	Write "Who enjoys..." and a short phrase to finish the thought.
Eighth line	Write "Who likes to wear..." and a short phrase to finish the thought.
Last line	Write your musher's first name again!



**Iditarod Credits:**

<http://www.iditarod.com>

<http://education.nmsu.edu/webquest/wq/iditarod/>

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