Welcome!
A Multi-Subject Unit Plan with the Theme of Alaska

By Mary Holysz
HOW THIS PROJECT BEGAN...

- The opportunity was presented by Dr. Davis to live in Alaska and complete a teaching internship.
- While in Alaska, I interned in a 3rd grade classroom.
- I also completed a course called “Native Cultures of Alaska” at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- Additional travel experiences throughout Alaska allowed me to learn more about the state and its people.
VIDEO: MY ALASKAN JOURNEY

My Alaskan Journey

By: Mary Holysz
DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

- In this unit, the students will be learning about many different subject areas through the theme of Alaska.
- This unit is meant as a companion teaching tool in which an hour or so of each day is spent on the Alaska project.
- The lessons are meant to reinforce and provide practice for the learning that takes place in the school’s regular curriculum.
Description of the Unit

- Unit Center
  - Community builder

- Goals
  - The students will create artifacts to show their new learning about the characteristics of the state of Alaska.
  - The students will create artifacts to show their new learning about the Native peoples of Alaska.
  - The students will maintain a portfolio of their work throughout the unit.
  - The students will showcase their new learning by creating a commercial with the artifacts they have created throughout the unit.

- Learning Statements
  - Main ideas from each lesson.
Lesson Topics

- Lesson Plan 1: General Overview
- Lesson Plan 2: Maps of Alaska
- Lesson Plan 3: Weather
- Lesson Plan 4: Seasons and Length of Daylight
- Lesson Plan 5: Plant Life
- Lesson Plan 6: Animal Life
- Lesson Plan 7: Salmon
Lesson Topics

- Lesson Plan 8: National Parks
- Lesson Plan 9: “Leave No Trace”
- Lesson Plan 10: Mt. McKinley/Denali
- Lesson Plan 11: History of Alaska
- Lesson Plan 12: The Alaskan Pipeline
Lesson Topics

- Lesson Plan 13: Past Cultures of the Native Alaskans
- Lesson Plan 14: Housing of Past Native Alaskans
- Lesson Plan 15: Languages of the Native Alaskans
- Lesson Plan 16: Oral Storytelling
- Lesson Plan 17: Making a Totem/House-post
- Lesson Plan 18: Making a Yupik Mask
- Lesson Plan 19: Respect People with Differences
- Lesson Plan 20: Literacy Circles
Lesson Plan 21: Summative Assessment

- Throughout the unit, the students have created a series of artifacts for a travel agency.
- All artifacts were either displayed or put into the students’ Alaska Portfolios.
- Students use their artifacts to create a brochure to persuade people to visit Alaska.
- Students write and present a commercial for the travel agency using their artifacts from the unit.
- The commercials will be videotaped and posted on the class website.
- Students will also choose their favorite artifact to post on the class website.
THANK YOU

- Thank you Dr. Tracy DeMars for being my Thesis Mentor.
- Thank you Dr. Josephine Barry Davis for making my Alaska trip happen and for serving on my committee.
- Thank you Dr. Ron Davis for welcoming me to Alaska.
- Thank you Kay Bullock for the housing and company in Alaska.
- Thank you to the anonymous donor who provided some funds for my research.
- Thank you friends and family for the continuous support.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

QUESTIONS?