

West Brooke Curriculum

Unit Study for Middle School- High School

Iditarod and Alaska Unit

Outline to follow:

<http://www.homeschoolinthewoods.com/UnitStudies/iditarod-alaska.htm>

Major source of information:

<http://iditarod.com/>

Reading list from Homeschool in the Woods website:

1. [Let's Learn America](#) - A KidsCan! Book (a book of the 50 states, refer to Alaska section)
2. [...If You Lived in the Alaska Territory](#) - Nancy Smiler Levinson
3. [Woodsong](#) - Gary Paulsen, autobiography of a Musher

(highly recommend-homeschool in the woods)

(I just finished this book, very good; but for a mature reader, contains descriptions of wildlife killing other animals, injuries, hallucinations due to extreme circumstances, etc. Would be a good read-aloud to your mature students so that you can discuss these events. jw)

4. [Scrub Dog of Alaska](#) - Walt Morey
5. [Alaska Atlas & Gazetteer](#) - Delorme Mapping
6. [Stone Fox](#) - John Reynolds Gardiner
7. [The Bite of the Gold Bug: A Story of the Alaskan Gold Rush](#) -
(Once Upon America) Barthe Declements

Additional reading:

Look up Alaska in your Encyclopedia

Black Star, Bright Dawn by Scott O'Dell

The Iditarod—Ten Centuries in the Making g95 10/8 16-20 (Awake!)

Where Eagles Fly in for Fish Dinners g95 11/22 15-18

Oil at Your Service—Maybe! g89 11/22 11-12

A Mother Bear's Long Nap g02 8/8 18-20

Impressive Giants of Canada's North g93 12/8 23-25

An Elusive Creature—Hated and Loved g94 9/8 24-27

<http://alaskawildberryproducts.com/education/klondike-gold-rush.html>

Call of the Wild by Jack London (High School American Literature, on many high school reading lists. FYI- my oldest son did not like it.) Literature guide for Call of the Wild:

<http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/callofwild.html>

Additional Video:

Our Whole Association of Brothers Part 1- Witnessing Shoulder to Shoulder

<http://www.travelchannel.com/video/tour-alaskas-uniq-glacier>

<http://www.travelchannel.com/video/tour-alaska-by-train>

Ice Hotel Pictures: <http://www.travelchannel.com/interests/holidays/photos/ice-hotels>

Additional Map resource:

http://www.eduplace.com/state/ak/pdf/ak_map.pdf

Writing Ideas:

Consider writing a report about Alaska, the Iditarod Race, Sled Dogs, or Eskimos.

Book Report for one of the books read.

Report about one of the animals found in Alaska.

Recipe:

Baked Alaska: <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/baked-alaska-2/>

<http://alaskawildberryproducts.com/education/alaskan-foods.html>

How to Make Your Own Snowshoes

By Meg Jernigan, eHow Contributor

Instructions

Cut down two or three small trees with branches. The bole (lower trunk) should not be more than 2 inches around. Try to find a supple, green wood that will bend without snapping. Test the sapling by bending it toward the ground to see if it is likely to snap when formed into a loop.

- Strip the branches off the tree. Cut about a 4-foot length of the narrow trunk. The size of the snowshoe depends on your weight. A 200-lb. person would use snowshoes that are about 15 inches wide and 2 feet long. Adjust the length of the cut trunk accordingly.
- Bend the trunk into a circle or oval. Tie the ends together. Loop the cord around the ends, forming an X shape. Then loop the cord around the center of the X. Test to make sure the ends won't come undone and redo the rope if necessary.
- Add cross pieces. Tie on one branch where your foot will rest on the snowshoe, then two more spaced evenly toward the rear of the snowshoe.
- Create a webbing by weaving smaller branches through the three crosspieces until there are enough branches to hold each other in place.
- Make bindings by putting the ball of your foot on the main crosspiece and then tying the snowshoe through the laces of your boot.

<http://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/projects/23375/make-your-own-snowshoes/>

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Gorilla-TapeGorilla-Glue-Snowshoes-from-Scratch/>

How to make boot Covers:

<http://www.simplicity.com/t-how-to-make-faux-fur-boot-covers.aspx>

How to make a fur hat and muff:

<http://www.craftster.org/forum/index.php?topic=387511.0>

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Sew-a-Faux-Fur-Lined-Muff-and-Hat/>

<http://www.craftster.org/forum/index.php?topic=280175.0>

Written by:
Jenny Westbrook
December 25, 2012