

Iditarod Experience Journal

The Iditarod Experience Journal interactive flash maps (linked from <http://www.iditarod.com/teachers/resources.html>) allow you to read descriptions of what racing along the trail might be like. Interactive maps are provided for the Northern and Southern Route. Full of adventure, you can read of some of the challenges and obstacles that a team may face during the long trek to Nome.

Feel free to just enjoy reading the descriptions or you can be creative and invent a game or lesson plan using the maps.

The following is just one idea of a lesson plan that you can use:

Learning Objectives

- To follow "The Last Great Race on Earth", with the opportunity to acquire race information through an interactive map and other Internet resources.
- To use the Internet resource data and information to create a journal of your race experiences to Nome using selections from the trail checkpoint to checkpoint and following the progress of a chosen musher and his/her team.
- To use charts, biographies, and other race links, with the interactive map to collect your data and write your daily journal entries.
- To exercise your writing abilities with information used to complete a unique personal journal.

The Assignment

Learn the dynamics of what happens out on the Iditarod Trail by using the interactive map to access the trail and select experiences found in the sections between the checkpoints. Select only one experience for each section of the trail and construct your race scenarios from Wasilla to Nome following the teams as they mush to the finish line. You will use the Eye on the Trail Blog featuring Jon Little and related links. Use the race updates, and musher information located on this site as well as press releases and related links you may discover on the World Wide Web. Keep all your findings as a journal and take the creative risk to add other details that have occurred during the race in the correct sequence and sections of trail. Your race adventure is what you make it, through the selection process and Internet research. It's your Iditarod race to Nome! It is not about the destination, it is about the journey.

This lesson plan was prepared by Kathy Kent, who teaches in New Jersey.