

The Iditarod In Rhyme and Song

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Discipline / Subject: Language Arts/Music

Topic: Iditarod

Grade Level: PK-3

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

- *Iditarod* Song Sheet
- *Iditarod, Iditarod, A Dog Sled Race* Song Sheet
- CD
- *Five Little Huskies* Poem
- Song Chart with *Iditarod* song
- *Kiana's Iditarod* by Shelley Gill
- *Sled Dogs Run* by Jonathan London, illustrated by Jon Van Zyle
- *Dog Heroes – Sled Dogs* by Lori Haskins
- Other books about the Iditarod, Balto, Togo, and The Great Serum Run

Lesson Summary: Students will learn about the Iditarod by singing and learning a finger play that can also be dramatized.

Standards Addressed: (National)

- The student will demonstrate familiarity with a variety of books and selections (e.g., rhymes, finger plays, and drama).
- The student will make connections through the use of oral language.
- The student will use speaking and listening skills to connect experiences by discussing and dramatizing stories

Alaska's State Standards – K-2

- (K) 1.1.5 Demonstrating understanding of concepts in print including left to right of page and one-to-one correspondence
- (K) 1.3.1 Participating in choral speaking and reciting short poems, rhymes, songs or stories with repeated patterns
- (1) 1.3.1 and (2) 1.3.1 Reading orally with rhythm, flow, and expression
- (K,1,2) 1.4.1 Retelling or dramatizing a familiar story with or without the use of props

Learning Objectives:

The student will:

- Engage in word play
- Build pre-reading skills through rhyming activities
- Sing as a group and individually
- Recite the rhyme in a group and independently
- Perform a designated verse of the rhyme when performing as a member of a group

Method of Assessment for Learning:

Teacher observation

Procedural Activities:

The teacher introduces the unit by singing the *Iditarod* song to the class (song should be printed and illustrated on a song chart), pointing out the words as she sings. Sing the song three times during its introduction, challenging the students to sing along. Sing the song twice a day and by the third day they will be able to sing the song by themselves.

Introduce the *Five Little Huskies* poem as a finger play. Use it as a finger play until the children can perform it without you then turn it into a short dramatic piece. Set up six chairs in front of the class. The first five chairs are for the huskies and the sixth is for the driver, who gets to hold a bell. The teacher recites the first line of the poem, "Five little huskies were sleeping in the snow," and the beginning of each verse that follows. The children recite the portion of the line in quotes (and the driver rings the bell on cue). When the teacher says, "Then the five little huskies ran away in a rush!"—the huskies run back to their classroom seats. Repeat throughout the unit until every student has had a turn.

The movement song, *Iditarod, Iditarod, A Dog Sled Race*, can be used any time during the unit. It is particularly good for settling the class and making transition into the next activity.

Materials Students Need:

Each student needs to bring his or her sweet voice and the driver needs a bell.

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

This is the time to go to www.iditarod.com to show the children Alaskan huskies in action!

Other Information:

I have used these songs successfully in grades PK through 5th grade. I've had camps of middle school students, high school students, and folks at retirements communities perform the echo song, *Iditarod, Iditarod, A Dog Sled Race*, and everyone loves it. It is so much fun to be silly and laugh. You could also allow students in grades 4-8 to be the instructors. These students learn the songs then teach them to students in the lower grades. Remember: Brain research shows that singing enhances learning!

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

The repetitive nature of the songs and the poem make this a very successful activity for all children.

If you have a child that is reading above grade level make them your resident expert. Choose books, selections from books, or poems for the student to read, recite, or report to the class.