

On February 23 the 2008 Junior Iditarod will be run. On the website www.jriditarod.com you can find the 2008 mushers and race rules, etc. Introduce your students to this race as well as the full one– for some of your classes, the kids will be the same age, and how exciting is that?

Here's an activity you can do that involves both races. Have your students create a Venn diagram, as age appropriate, comparing and contrasting the races. You can use the rules, the route, the mushers, the requirements - the list is long. My students have the 2008 Junior Iditarod race rules. I'm selecting specific information that I know varies from the full Iditarod rules and having them research the differences online at the Iditarod website to create a Venn diagram. For example some differences include age requirement, number of dogs allowed, mandatory stop time. Some similarities are the mushers leave 2 minutes apart, the time differential is made up at the layover, mandatory gear, and the mushers can't get outside assistance.