

Thanksgiving - wild game birds along the Iditarod Trail

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Discipline / Subject: science

Topic: game birds found along the Iditarod Trail/ecosystems

Grade Level: 4-8

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs: Internet access to show pictures of wild Alaskan birds

Lesson Summary: After discussing the turkey, a common wild bird of the lower 48, students will explore what wild birds live in Alaska.

Standard's Addressed:

national standards:

NS.5-8.3

Students should understand populations and ecosystems.

Alaska standards:

SC2 Students develop an understanding of the structure, function, behavior, development, life cycles, and diversity of living organisms.

Arizona standards:

SC-S4-C3-PO1 Identify the relationships among organisms within populations, communities, ecosystems, and biomes

Learning objectives:

Students will:

- identify the turkey as a wild bird (comprehension)
- identify wild birds of Alaska (comprehension)

Assessment:

Monitor student discussion for comprehension.

You could give a quiz on the wild game birds of Alaska.

Procedural Activities:

1. Lead a classroom discussion about the tradition of eating turkey at Thanksgiving.
2. Help students identify the turkey as a wild game bird.
3. Ask students if they know of other wild game birds.
4. Ask them what birds they think mushers would see along the Iditarod Trail.
5. Either show students Alaskan wild game bird pictures or let them use the Internet and books to find the pictures and where they are commonly found.
6. Students might make a chart of the birds and where they are found.

Materials Students Need: paper and pencil if recording game birds and their locations, Internet access, books of wild birds

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning: Internet access

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/chekbird/r7/alaska.htm>

Here is a decent website to help out.

Other Information: Turkeys are not native to Alaska.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

Students may become an "expert" on an Alaskan game bird and present the findings to the class.

Make a class map of game birds along the Iditarod Trail.

Take students on a birdwatching trip.