Iditaread Challenge

Iditaread Instructions Packet

Each year in March, men, women, and dogs from around the world converge on the state of Alaska to take part in what has become known as the "Last Great Race" on earth. This race is known as the Iditarod, a Trail Sled Dog Race. The terrain is beautiful and brutal, the sled dogs are nothing short of majestic.

Take young readers on an extraordinary journey in conjunction with the amazing journey of mushers and sled dog teams known as the IDITAROD. Follow the Iditarod Trail Race from Anchorage Alaska to Nome, Alaska. Kids love dogs and adventures, so this race is set up perfectly to allow them to follow each step of the race, while reaching their reading goals as they watch the iditarod participants reach their racing goals.

Use these worksheets to record your progress along the IditaRead Trail!

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Dear Guardians,

The Iditarod is a very tough and exciting Alaskan sled dog race run from Anchorage to Nome, and all those who enter do it for the challenge. Only a few teams are good enough to do it for the money and fame it will bring to them. We are going to follow the 52nd Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race this year! This challenging race of over 1,100 miles can take from 9 to 14 days to complete.

We are accepting a similar challenge in reading. We call it the IditaREAD Challenge. Readers will choose veteran and rookie mushers and attempt to read to match their mushers' arrival at each of the 25 race checkpoints. Each reader's goal will be to read a chapter, a story, or a short book for each race checkpoint reached by their musher. Readers will keep track of their reading on an Iditaread Challenge Reading Record.

The ceremonial start of the race is on Saturday, March 2nd 2024 in Anchorage. The official race restart is in Willow on Sunday, March 3rd. Our reading will also begin officially on Sunday, March 3rd, and will continue until the last musher finishes in Nome.

Here are some general guidelines:
1. Everyone will be participating – it's part of our reading.
2. Help your reader choose material that is a slight challenge but enjoyable.
3. All readers will keep a record of their reading on their Iditaread Challenge Reading Record.
4. Find out more online about the Iditarod, the dogs, and your musher's progress at:
◆http://iditarod.com/race/
◆musher listings: http://iditarod.com/race/musher-listing/
◆musher profile: http://iditarod.com/race/mushers/
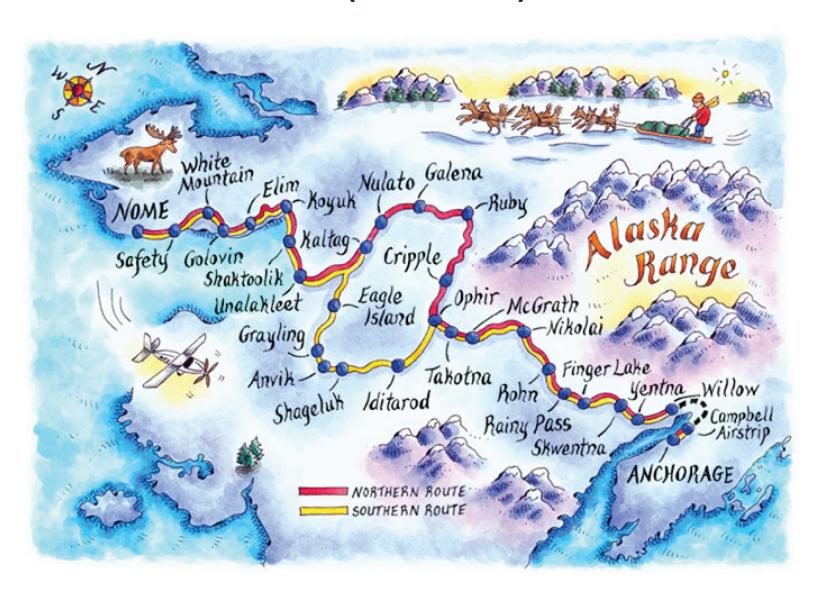5. Certificates of participation and Iditaread dog tags will be awarded to all finishers at the conclusion of the race. Readers must turn in a completed Iditaread Challenge Reading Record to qualify for a dog tag.

Thank you and good luck in our Iditaread!

Sincerely,
_____

The Iditarod Trail

Northern (Even Year) Route
Southern (Odd Year) Route

NORTHERN ROUTE
SOUTHERN ROUTE

Iditaread Challenge

The Most Common Question asked about the Trail:

Why does the trail go one way in even years (northern) and the other way in odd years (southern)?

     Both sections of trail are a part of the Iditarod National Historical Trail which was used in early years for all winter travel. Dog sleds delivered the mail, the preacher, the groceries and hauled out gold and furs all the way to Anchorage or Fairbanks.

     During the early years of the Iditarod Race, the mushers only traveled the northern trail. After several years, the Iditarod Board of Directors realized that the smaller villages were being heavily impacted by the race coming through their village year after year. It was decided to use both sections of the trail.

     This decision had a three-fold effect. The northern villages of Ruby, Galena and Nulato only had to deal with the large group of mushers, press and volunteers every other year. The second effect was that the race was able to pass through the actual ghost town of Iditarod. Lastly, the villages of Shageluk, Anvik and Grayling were able to participate in the race.

Iditaread Challenge

RACE ENTRY APPLICATION

Please complete this form and get the necessary signatures to enter the Iditaread.

1. Reader Name _____

2. Birth date _____ 3. Age ___

4. What is your goal for the Iditaread?

_____Read a story or short book per checkpoint

_____ Other – (Please explain) _____

Please write a few sentences about any special things you want to learn about Alaska, the dogs or the Iditarod this year?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____   _____

Head Official (Educator) Signature   Assistant Official (Guardian) Signature

Iditaread Challenge

Our Mushing Partner
Iditaread

Veteran or **Rookie**
☐ ☐

Readers can look at photos of the mushers and choose the musher they want to track during their iditarod / iditaread adventure.

Musher listings: http://iditarod.com/race/musher-listing/
Musher profile: http://iditarod.com/race/mushers/

Glue/import picture of your mushing partner here.

Name:_____ Home:_____

Age:_____ Where born:_____

When did he or she begin mushing?_____

How many times has this musher participated in the Iditarod?_____

Hobbies:_____

Other information about your musher:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Iditaread Challenge

My Name:_____

Librarian Name:_____

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race
Iditarod Bookmark Tally Sheet

My Iditaread Reading Goal is: _____ Stories/Chapters/Short Books

Checkpoint #	List each story, chapter, or short book you read	Author
1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____
8	_____	_____
9	_____	_____
10	_____	_____
11	_____	_____
12	_____	_____
13	_____	_____
14	_____	_____
15	_____	_____
16	_____	_____
17	_____	_____
18	_____	_____
19	_____	_____
20	_____	_____
21	_____	_____
22	_____	_____
23	_____	_____
24	_____	_____
25	_____	_____

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race
Iditaread Challenge Reading Record

Reader Name:_____

Musher Name:_____

Checkpoint Name	Date	Miles Run	From Anch.	Story or Short Book or Chapter	Author
Anchorage	3/2				
Campbell Airstrip	3/3	11	11		
Willow	3/3	29	49		
Yentna		42	53		
Skwentna		30	83		
Finger Lake		40	123		
Rainy Pass		30	153		
Rohn		35	188		
Nikolai		75	263		
McGrath		48	311		
Takotna		18	329		
Ophir		23	352		
Cripple		73	425		
Ruby		70	495		
Galena		50	545		
Nulato		37	582		
Kaltag		47	629		
Unalakleet		85	714		
Shaktoolik		40	754		
Koyuk		50	804		
Elim		48	852		
Golovin (unofficial)**		28	880		
White Mountain		18	898		
Safety		55	953		
Nome		22	975		

Reader Name:_____

Musher Name:_____

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race
Southern Route Musher Tracking Checksheet
This page is optional for the iditarod enthusiasts.

Checkpoint Name	Miles Run	From Anch.	Date	Time In	# of Dogs	Date	Time Out	# of Dogs	# of Dropped Dogs	Layover
Checkpoint Name										
Anchorage										
Campbell Airstrip	11	11								
Willow	42	53								
Yentna	30	83								
Skwentna	40	123								
Finger Lake	30	153								
Rainy Pass	35	188								
Rohn	75	263								
Nikolai	48	311								
McGrath	18	329								
Takotna	23	352								
Ophir	73	425								
Cripple	70	495								
Ruby	50	545								
Galena	37	582								
Nulato	47	629								
Kaltag	85	714								
Unalakleet	40	754								
Shaktoolik	50	804								
Koyuk	48	852								
Elim	28	880								
Golovin (unofficial)**	18	898								
White Mountain	55	953								
Safety	22	975								

Iditaread Challenge

I followed the Iditarod Trail

I Participated in the 2024

Reader (Musher) _____

Race Official, Librarian _____