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*Northern Journeys*

Teacher Resource Kit

DOGS IN ALASKA

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## ***Northern Journeys***

### **Teacher Resource Kit**

#### **Mission Statement**

*Northern Journeys* is an online curriculum incorporating the interpretation of museum objects into classroom activities that support Alaska Content Standards. Students, teachers, and families can access and interact with objects from the Archaeology, Ethnology, and Fine Arts Collections at the University of Alaska Museum. *Northern Journeys* encourages learning about Alaska through the disciplines of art, culture, history, and science. This multiple perspective enables users to learn more about historic values and traditions as they develop their sense of place or belonging within the community.

The first journey, DOGS IN ALASKA, is an invitation to learn about dogs and art in the UA Museum. Users will explore some of the different ways dogs work with people in Alaska. DOGS IN ALASKA is available at:

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/journeys/>

How to use this site:

- Click on one picture to start your Journey.
- Answer each question before moving to the next page.
- Click on **Next** to continue your Journey.
- Click on **Back** to return to the previous page.
- Click on **Go Back to Dogs in Alaska!** to explore another picture.
- Be sure to scroll to view pages in their entirety.



Note: *Northern Journeys* will look different depending on what browser is used.

After you have explored this site, be sure to visit the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks, Alaska.

## **Teacher Resource Kit: Alaska Content Standards**

*Northern Journeys* is designed to support educational goals according to Alaska Content Standards. The following Content Standards are incorporated throughout the site:

### **Arts**

- A. A student should be able to create and perform in the arts.
- B. A student should be able to understand the historical and contemporary role of the arts in Alaska, the nation, and the world.
- C. A student should be able to critique his or her art and the art of others.
- D. A student should be able to recognize beauty and meaning through the arts in his or her life.

### **History**

- A. A student should understand that history is a record that links the past to the present and the future.
- B. A student should understand historical themes through factual knowledge of time, places, ideas, institutions, cultures, people, and events.
- C. A student should develop the skills and processes of historical inquiry.
- D. A student should be able to integrate historical knowledge with historical skill to effectively participate as a citizen and as a lifelong learner.

### **Culture**

- A. Culturally knowledgeable students are well grounded in the cultural heritage and traditions of their community.
- B. Culturally knowledgeable students are able to build on the knowledge and skills of the local cultural community as a foundation from which to achieve personal and academic success throughout life.

- C. Culturally knowledgeable students demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the relationships and processes of interaction of all elements in the world around them.

### **Geography**

- A. A student should be able to utilize, analyze, and explain information about the human and physical features of places and regions.
- B. A student should understand and be able to interpret spatial (geographic) characteristics of human systems, including migration, movement, interactions of cultures, economic activities, settlement patterns, and political units in the state, nation, and world.
- C. A student should understand and be able to evaluate how humans and physical environments interact.
- D. A student should be able to use geography to understand the world by interpreting the past, knowing the present, and preparing for the future.

### **Technology**

- A. A student should be able to use technology to locate, select, and manage information.
- B. A student should be able to use technology to explore ideas, solve problems, and derive meaning.
- C. A student should be able to use technology to express ideas and exchange information.

Additional standards in the sciences and mathematics are included, where appropriate, in the individual activities.

## ***Northern Journeys: DOGS IN ALASKA***

### Background Information

Dog mushing describes a whole host of activities involving sled dogs—from pulling carts or skiers to hauling packs—but the most common is pulling sleds.

Traditionally, sled dogs were used by hunters, trappers, and traders, but sled dogs have also traveled to both poles, participated in two World Wars, and served men and women in the pursuit of commerce, science, medicine, law, and religion. In addition, sled dog racing, an Alaska State sport, is growing worldwide.

Dog mushing is believed to have started centuries ago among the Alaska Native people in north central Russia, but by the time white explorers reached North America, it was firmly established among the Eskimo cultures of Alaska, northern Canada, and Greenland. While Alaska Natives traditionally ran Eskimo dogs, Alaskan malemutes, Siberian huskies, and the bred-for-mushing Alaskan huskies soon joined the ranks of northern sled dogs.

The basic equipment used in dogsledding consists of sled, harnesses, and lines. High tech materials have replaced animal hides, bones, and the occasional ivory runners, but wood remains an important component in most sleds. In the harnesses and lines, cotton, nylon, and polypropylene have replaced the leather and rawhide of old.

There are several ways to hitch dogs to a sled. Fan hitches (each dog on a separate line) are well suited for open ice, while a traditional freight hitch (single file) is still used in forests and deep snow. Most common today, though, is the tandem hitch (a line of two dogs abreast).

Originally, dog teams were led by a person who broke trail with snowshoes. In time, hand signals and voice commands were used by the sled's guide. Today, mushers generally stand on the runners at the back of the sled and call out directional commands. One command, now rarely used, is "mush" (believed to come from the French verb *marcher* (marsh-ay) meaning "to walk" or "to go"), the very word at the root of mushing.

### **Mushing Voice Commands**

**Gee:** Go right

**Haw:** Go left

**Come Gee (or Haw):** Turn 180 degrees to right (or left)

**Get-up, Hike, OK, Let's go:** It's time to go!

**Whoa:** Stop (used in combination with the brake)

**Straight Ahead:** Go straight at an intersection

**On By:** Go straight by another team when passing or past a distraction (such as a loose dog, another team, or a moose)

## Art Enrichment Activities

*Off to the Trapline* by Fred Machetanz

1. **Complementary colors** are colors that are opposites on the color wheel. They are blue and orange, red and green, purple and yellow. Fred Machetanz used complimentary colors in this painting. Create a picture of dogs using one set of complimentary colors plus black and white.

*FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (warm, cool, neutral colors), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (complementary colors)*

2. Look at the **size** of the dogs in the picture, the dogs that appear closest are larger. Try drawing a dog team running towards you. The dog closest to you will be the biggest and the dog farthest away from you will be the smallest. They will also overlap each other.

*FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (three-dimensional), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (foreground), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (realistic)*

3. The dog team's trail in this painting is a **diagonal**. Diagonal lines give us the feeling of movement. Diagonal lines are dynamic. Create a picture of moving objects, cars, planes, skateboards, skiers, sleds, or people using a diagonal line.

*FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 5<sup>th</sup> grade (elements of design)*

*Pizza Hut* by Brian Allen

1. The photographer who took this picture was standing above the dog team. Perhaps he was on a hill or a bridge. To create this **perspective** you can draw your horizon line (where the earth meets the sky) high on your piece of paper. Look carefully at how we see the backs of the dogs from above. Try drawing a picture of something that looks like you were standing above what you draw.

*FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (three-dimensional)*

2. This photo has two **contrasting** images, a Pizza Hut representing modern life and a dog team representing a traditional lifestyle. Draw a picture that combines two images, old and new.

*FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (tradition), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (culture), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (heritage)*

3. The dog team is running in an angle across the picture. This **diagonal** line is very dynamic. It suggests movement. Use a diagonal line to create a picture of animals running.

*FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (lines), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (elements of design)*

*Tanana Woman and Dog* by Eustace Paul Ziegler

1. This is a painting of a woman and her dog on a mountaintop looking out over the vast Alaskan Landscape. Because of their **size** and **position** in the painting, they are the focal point, the most important thing, in the picture. We pay more attention to the woman and her dog than to the landscape. Create a picture in which you place what you consider the most important thing or the focal point, in the center of the picture. Make it large.

***FNSBSD Curriculum Goals: Art 4<sup>th</sup> grade (balance, foreground,) 5<sup>th</sup> grade (principal of design)***

2. The woman and her dog create a triangle **composition**. The triangle is a strong, dynamic shape. It says that this woman is strong, confident and active. Draw a picture in which the figure or figures create a triangle to show their strength and importance.

***FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 4<sup>th</sup> grade (symbols, shape, form, triangle), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (elements of design)***

*Two-Headed Dog* by Stephanie Harlan

1. Carefully draw an animal. Try to make it look real. Then draw another animal. Cut out your animals and overlay one on top of the other.

***FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 4<sup>th</sup> grade (contour line), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (outline, realistic)***

2. This picture shows two dogs. We call the dogs the positive space and the space around the dogs the negative space. Draw an animal picture so that the animal takes up almost all the space of your paper. The animal will be the positive space and the background the negative space.

***FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 4<sup>th</sup> grade (positive/negative space), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (principles of design)***

*Untitled* by George Ahgupuk

This work of art is a **narrative** drawing. It tells a story about a place, what it looks like, and what people do there. There are many small scenes describing activities and the landscape. Create a picture using a pencil or fine point marker that tells a story. Your narrative picture should show as much detail as possible. It could be a story about your school, what it looks like and what goes on there, or a story about a book that you have read.

***FNSBSD Art Curriculum Goals: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (illustration), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (personal style), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (heritage)***

## **Related Resources**

### **Books**

*The Alaskan Paintings of Fred Machetanz*, by Russ Riemann

*Andy: An Alaskan Tale*, by Susan Welsh-Smith

*Balto, Sled Dog of Alaska*, by LaVere Anderson

*Can Dogs Talk?* (and other titles), by Mary Shields

*Danger, the Dog Yard Cat*, by Libby Riddles

*Dogs of the North*, Alaska Geographic Society

*Dog Driver: A Guide for the Serious Musher*, by Miki and Julie Collins

*The Howl of the Malamute*, by Sara Machetanz

*Scrub Dog of Alaska*, by Walt Morey

*Sled Dogs of Denali*, by Sandy Kogl

*Winterdance*, by Gary Paulsen

*Painting Alaska*, by Kes Woodward, Alaska Geographic Society

### **Videos**

*Machetanz: An Artist's Journey*, by Kristine Samuelson

*Masterpieces in Motion: The Early Alaskan Films of Artist Fred Machetanz*,  
by Alaska Moving Images Preservation Association

(Most of these resources are available at the Noel Wien Public Library.)

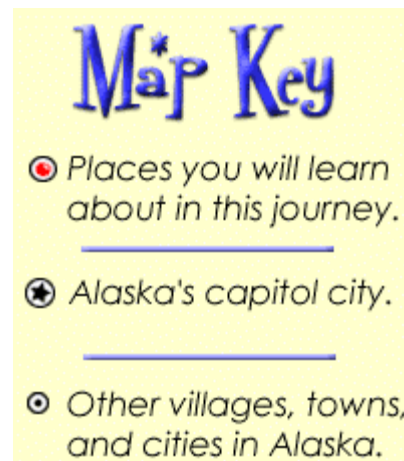
## Where in Alaska?

Anchorage  
Barrow  
Bethel  
Fairbanks  
Juneau  
Nome  
Shishmaref  
Tanana  
Unalakleet



The Alaska Map that is accessible from most Journeys pages shows the principle locations described directly or indirectly in Journeys. Clicking on each site will pull up an information window that includes:

1. A Brief Area Description
2. Relative Distances
3. Population
4. Annual Mean, Maximum, and Minimum Temperatures
5. Annual Precipitation
6. Elevation
7. Annual Mean Wind Speed
8. Chance of Precipitation



# Off to the trapline!

*Off to the Trapline*

Fred Machetanz

Oil on canvas

1984

UA85-22-1



Activity: Loading Your Dog Sled

- Choose from a list of objects to pack a dogsled for a five-day journey, without overloading the sled or leaving essential equipment behind.

Age: 8 + years

Alaska Content Standards:

- A student should understand and be able to evaluate how humans and physical environments interact. (Geography)
- A student should understand and be able to select and use a variety of problem-solving strategies. (Mathematics)

Vocabulary:

- **romantic** - A style of painting artists use to show imagination, adventure, and excitement.
- **trapper** - A person who traps fur-bearing animals for their skins.
- **trapline** - The route a trapper uses to lay a series of traps. It may be only a few traps or many spread over miles of trail.

## ***About the Artist: Fred Machetanz.***

### Life

- 1908. Born
- 1935. Went to Alaska for short visit at uncle's trading post in Unalakleet. Loved the North and stayed 2 years.
- Returned to live in Alaska after stint in the Coast Guard and service with the U.S. Navy in World War II.

### Work

- Devoted his career to portrayals of Alaska's people, land, and animals.
- Revered in Alaska; work sold internationally.

## ***Locations and Geography: Unalakleet***

### Geography and Climate

- On Norton Sound, at the mouth of the Unalakleet River.
- 148 miles SE of Nome, 395 miles NW of Anchorage.
- Summer: sub-arctic climate with maritime influences when Norton is ice-free (May to October). Average temperature: 47° to 62°F.
- Winter: cold and dry. Average temperature: -4° to 11°F.
- Average annual precipitation: 17" rain, 41" snow.
- Extremes: -59° to 87°F.

### History

- Earliest houses date back to 200 BC/300 AD.
- Longtime major trade center, terminus of Kaltag Portage (winter route to Yukon River).
- 1830s. Russian-American Company builds post.
- 1898. Reindeer herders arrive from Lapland.
- 1901. Army Signal Corps builds telegraph line from St. Michael to Unalakleet.

### Economy

- Commercial herring fishing and subsistence. Tourism growing (world-class silver fishing).
- Transportation: Regular air service to Anchorage. Locally by all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and dogsleds.

## ***Art in Life***

- Machetanz, like Ziegler, represents the users of the land—trappers, dog mushers, and Alaska Natives—romantically evoking the lives of the *true* Alaskans.
- His style provides fantasy of intimacy with the land and freedom from society's constraints.

# Dog Racing!

*Pizza Hut*

Brian Allen

Photograph, gelatin silver print

1984

UAP85:076:001



Activity: Make a Dogsled Model

- Print an outline to color, cut, fold, and assemble a dogsled model. Create your own dogs to pull the sled.

Age: 8 + years

Alaska Content Standards:

- A student should be able to use technology to locate, select, and manage information. (Technology)
- A student should be able to use logic and reasoning to solve mathematical problems. (Mathematics)

Vocabulary:

- **diphtheria** - A contagious, life-threatening disease.
- **ice fog** - Frozen ice crystals that form thick clouds close to the ground in extremely cold temperatures.
- **musher** - A person who runs sled dogs.
- **runners** - Long, ski-like pieces of wood, metal, or plastic on which a sleigh or sled can slide.
- **slough** - A small, slow channel of a river.

## **About the Artist: Brian Allen**

### Life

- 1953. Born in Connecticut.
- 1977-1986. Lived in Alaska. (First visit in 1974.)
- After graduate school in New York City and 4 years of residence in Seattle, returned with wife, Deborah Niedermeyer, to Fairbanks.
- Currently resides in Seattle, Washington.

### Work

- Over 20 years as commercial/fine art photographer and teacher of camera arts.
- Excellent craftsmanship, attention to detail, care with photo's context, and juxtapositions of everyday experiences and views.
- Shows and publishes nationwide. In collections at Alaska State Museum in Juneau, the Anchorage Museum of History and Fine Arts, and the Alaska Airlines Collection in Seattle, Washington. The University of Alaska Museum has 16 prints by Allen.

## **Locations and Geography: Fairbanks**

### Geography & Climate

- In the Tanana Valley, the heart of Alaska's Interior, on the Chena River.
- 358 road miles north of Anchorage.
- Marked by temperature extremes (-62° to 96°F).
- Summer. Average temp: 61°F. Daylight: 21 hours (May 10 to Aug. 2).
- Winter. Average temp: -12°F. Daylight: Less than 4 hours (Nov. 18 to Jan. 24). Ice fog is common in winter.

### History

- City named after Indiana Senator Charles Fairbanks.
- Original people: Koyukon Athabascans. Today, 9.2% of Fairbanks residents are Alaska Native people.
- 1901. Captain E.T. Barnette established trading post on Chena River. A year later, gold was discovered 16 miles north.
- 1938. Ladd Field (now Fort Wainwright) constructed.
- 1940s. Alcan Highway built.
- 1970s. Trans-Alaska oil pipeline built.

### Economy

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Alaska. Service and supply center for Interior.
- Has city, borough, state and federal government services; transportation, communication; manufacturing; financial; and regional medical services.
- Also important for economy: 2 military bases, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, tourism, and mining.
- Transportation: road, air, and the Alaska Railroad.

## **Art in Life**

- Allen's photographs show everyday experience in interior Alaska, like sled dog racing.
- Many of Allen's photos are refreshing because they reveal the incongruities and quirks of life that Alaskans rarely notice but that makes life in the far north uncommon.
- *Pizza Hut* shows Eddie Streeper racing along Noyes Slough toward a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish in the North American Sled Dog Championship, a race run through downtown Fairbanks and close to Allen's home.
- To many outsiders this photo is baffling. What is going on here? Is the man rushing home with a large pepperoni and cheese? Do many people in Alaska travel by dogsled?

## Tanana Woman and Dog

*Tanana Woman and Dog*

Eustace Paul Ziegler

Oil on board

1939

UA91-017-001



Activity: Free Write

- Observe the image, write and print responses to curator's questions, and compare interpretations with others.

Age: 8 + years

Alaska Content Standards:

- A student should be able think logically and reflectively in order to present and explain positions based on relevant and reliable information. (Language Arts)
- A student should be able to critique his or her art and the art of others. (Arts)

Vocabulary:

- **Athabaskans** – An Alaska Native group of interior Alaska. Eleven separate Athabascan groups, with different cultural traditions, live in a large area covering south central Alaska north to the Brooks Range, and from the Seward Peninsula all the way east to Hudson's Bay in Canada. Their name comes from Lake Athabaska in Canada.
- **curator** - A person in charge of an exhibit or collection in a museum.
- **interpretation** - An effort to explain one or more meanings of a work of art, culture, language, or natural history.

- **subsistence** - The four survival needs common to all people: food, clothing, shelter, and transportation.

### ***About the Artist: Eustace Ziegler***

#### Life

- 1881. Born
- 1909-1924. Lived in Alaska. Made numerous return visits.
- Painted primarily Alaskan scenes for his remaining 45 years of life.

#### Work

- Keen depictions of the character of the early 20th century Alaskan frontier.
- Ziegler depicted the character of pioneer Alaskan life—figures that are not heroic or tragic, but solid, hard working, and real.

### ***Locations and Geography: Tanana***

#### Geography and Climate

- Interior Alaska. 2 miles from junction of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers. 130 miles west of Fairbanks.
- Cold, continental climate with temperature extremes (-71° to 90°F).
- Summer: July average maximum temperature: 64° to 70° F. River is ice-free mid-May to mid-October.
- Winter: January average minimum temperature: -14° to -18° F.
- Average annual precipitation: 13" rain, 50" snow.

#### History

- River juncture made Tanana a traditional trading settlement for Koyukon and Tanana Athabascans before European contact. Today 78.3% of population is Alaska Native.
- 1898. Fort Gibbon founded at Tanana to maintain the telegraph line between Fairbanks and Nome.
- Tanana Post office established in early 1900s.
- Today, traditional ways persist: subsistence, potlatches, dances, and foot races.

#### Economy

- Subsistence foods: salmon, whitefish, moose, bear, ptarmigan, waterfowl, and berries.
- Seasonal cash sources: fire fighting, trapping, construction, and commercial fishing.
- Accessible only by air and river.

### ***Art in Life***

- *Tanana Woman and Dog* shows Ziegler's ability to capture both character and activity in a seemingly simple composition.
- Ziegler captures the flavor of a culture, a place, and a moment in time dramatic sky and hilltop setting

## Two-Headed Dog!

*Two-Headed Dog*

Stephanie Harlan

Photograph, gelatin silver print

1983

UAP83:093:001



Activity: Which Dogs Go Where?

- Read descriptions of sled dog harness positions. Match positions on a diagram, name your team, and print a copy.

Age: 8 + years

Alaska Content Standards:

- A student should be a competent and thoughtful reader, listener, and viewer of literature, technical materials, and a variety of other information. (Language Arts)

Vocabulary:

- **lithography** - The process of making a print from a flat stone or metal plate. Grease is applied to parts of the plate, causing them to absorb ink. The parts that are not greased do not absorb ink.
- **veterinarian** - A person who practices medicine to prevent and treat diseases in animals.
- **lead dog(s)** - The first dog or pair of dogs in a dog team.
- **point dog(s)** - The dogs that are right behind the lead dogs in a team.
- **swing dog(s)** - The dogs in a team that work between the point dogs and the wheel dogs.

- **wheel dog(s)** - The strong dogs at the back of the team, directly in front of the sled.
  - **towline** -The line that connects the sled to the dog team; also called a gangline.
  - **neckline** - Line attached from a dog's collar to the towline.
  - **tugline** - The line that hooks the back of a dog's harness to the towline.
- Tuglines are the lines that sled dogs pull on to move the sled forward.

### ***About the Artist: Stephanie Harlan***

#### Life

- 1951. Born in Dayton, Ohio.
- Studied art at the University of Michigan and the Cranbrook Academy of Art.
- 1978. Moved to Fairbanks.
- Currently resides on Vashon Island, Washington.

#### Work

- Almost exclusively photography. Also restored a lithography press and constructed a print shop at her home.
- 1980s. Series of black/white sled dog photos: combined the light of the north, the frenzied activity of sled dog racing, and the graceful movement of the dogs.
- Often photographed individual dogs, showing aspects of the sport missed when an entire team is viewed.
- Focus on relationships between individual dogs, and between the dogs and humans.
- Self-professed empathy for dogs is apparent in her work.

### ***Locations and Geography: Fairbanks***

#### Geography & Climate

- In the Tanana Valley, the heart of Alaska's Interior, on the Chena River.
- 358 road miles N of Anchorage.
- Marked by temperature extremes (-62° to 96°F).
- Summer. Average temp: 61°F. Daylight: 21 hours (May 10 to Aug. 2).
- Winter. Average temp: -12°F. Daylight: Less than 4 hours (Nov. 18 to Jan. 24). Ice fog is common in winter.

#### History

- City named after Indiana Senator Charles Fairbanks.
- Original people: Koyukon Athabascans. Today, 9.2% of Fairbanks are Alaska Native people.
- 1901. Capt. E.T. Barnette established trading post on Chena River. A year later, gold was discovered 16 miles north.
- 1938. Ladd Field (now Fort Wainwright) constructed.
- 1940s. Alcan Highway built.
- 1970s. Trans-Alaska oil pipeline built.

#### Economy

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Alaska. Service and supply center for Interior.
- Has city, borough, state and federal government services; transportation, communication; manufacturing; financial; and regional medical services.

- Also important for economy: 2 military bases, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, tourism, and mining.
- Transportation: road, air, and the Alaska Railroad.

### ***Art in Life***

- Perhaps the first contemporary Alaskan photographer to look seriously at sled dogs as individuals, as athletes, and as symbols.
- Often shows blurred racing dogs set off against a totally white ground, allowing their character and anima to surface in a perceptible way.
- Humans rarely appear in her images; she does not present the dogs as pets.
- *Two-Headed Dog* catches viewers off guard by presenting an impossible creature—the ideal lead dog paying attention to the trail ahead and the team behind.



*Untitled*

George Ahgupuk

Pen and ink on hide

1936

UA83-9-13



Activity: Sort Subsistence Activities

- View the variety of subsistence activities depicted (click on areas of the image to zoom in for a closer look). Decide which take place on land and which take place on water or ice. Sort by clicking.

Age: 8 + years

Alaska Content Standards:

- Culturally knowledgeable students demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the relationships and processes of interaction of all elements in the world around them. (Alaska Culture)
- A student should understand that history is a record of human experiences that links the past to the present and the future. (History)

Vocabulary:

- **circa** - About, around, near this time. Often abbreviated as ca.
- **environment** - All the surrounding conditions.
- **Inupiat** - The indigenous people of northern and northwest Alaska.
- **subsistence** - The four survival needs common to all people: food, clothing, shelter, and transportation.

### **About the Artist: George Ahgupuk**

#### Life

- 1911. Born in Shishmaref, Alaska.
- 1934. Convalescing at the Kotzebue Native Health Service, took up drawing with pencils and paper provided by a nurse.
- 1937. His skills and originality were recognized by the artist Rockwell Kent, on whose recommendation Ahgupuk was elected to full membership in the American Artists Group in New York. (Group sent him drawing supplies and later published Christmas cards featuring his work.)

#### Work

- Drawings are unpretentious yet accomplished, complex without being fussy.
- Back from Kotzebue, Ahgupuk ran out of paper and drew on bleached sealskin, a medium that—along with skins from reindeer, caribou, moose, and various kinds of fish—became his trademark.
- Drawings give a rare direct, perceptive, and often witty look at the traditional activities of Alaska village life.
- Range from vignettes of hunting, reindeer herding, and other village scenes to large, elaborate compositions depicting scores of people, animals, and activities.

#### Distribution

- Perhaps the best-known Alaskan Eskimo graphic artist of this century.

### **Locations and Geography: Shishmaref**

#### Geography and Climate

- On Sarichef Island, in the Chukchi Sea, just north of Bering Strait.
- 5 miles from the mainland. 126 miles N of Nome. 100 miles SW of Kotzebue.
- Surrounded by the 2.6 million acre Bering Land Bridge National Reserve.
- Transitional climate between the frozen arctic and the continental Interior.
- Summer: Can be foggy. Average temperature: 47° to 54°F.
- Winter: Chukchi Sea is frozen, mid-Nov. to mid-June. Average temperature: -12° to 2°F.
- Average annual precipitation: 8" rain, 33" snow.

#### History

- 1816. Lt. Otto Von Kotzebue named the inlet *Shishmarev*, after a crewmember.
- 1821. Excavations of a village site provided evidence of Eskimo habitation from several centuries ago.
- 1900. Supply center was established to serve gold mining activities on the Seward Peninsula. Later the village was renamed after the Inlet.

#### Economy

- 94.5% of population is Alaska Native.
- Traditional Eskimo village. Subsistence: fish, walrus, seal, polar bear, rabbit, and other. Two reindeer herds are managed from the village.

- The sale or importation of alcohol is banned.
- Residents own boats for travel to the mainland. Commercial air access is available.

***Art in Life***

- Ahgupuk combined the Eskimo graphic (scrimshaw) tradition with Western narrative (storytelling) style art. His mix of graphics, as well as Alaska Native and Western media, marks a transition in Alaska Native art.
- Known best for pen and ink drawings on animal hides.

**References:**

Information on Locations and Geography and the 'Where in Alaska?' map comes from the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Diagnostic Center, and the Washington Post Climate Archives.

Annual Statistics are calculated from 1961 to 1990, populations are certified by DCED for December 1999.

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