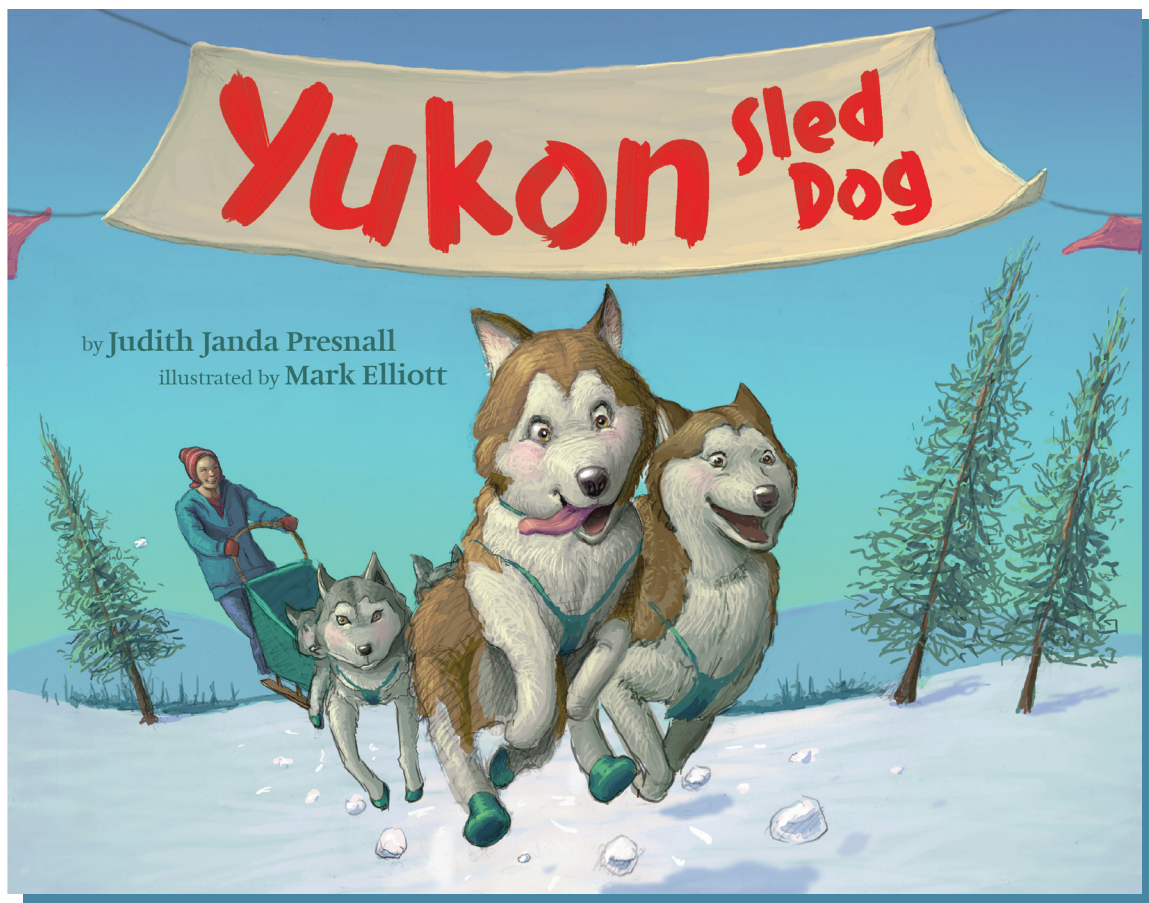




Kids' Activity Guide

Yukon: Sled Dog is a story about a tough little dog in a tough environment. Yukon is the only female puppy in her litter, and she is going to show everyone that she has what it takes to lead the team. Yukon and her brothers are trained to be sled dogs by Roberta, who teaches them how to pull ice sleds in the snow. The dogs work hard and train in very difficult conditions. Yukon proves she is the best sled dog in the litter when she leads the team in their first race.

In *Yukon*, Presnall shows how hard work pays off and how it takes a special combination of strength, obedience, and endurance to be a great sled dog. *Yukon* allows students to explore an environment and a subject children may not be familiar with. Working dogs have been a part of humanity since prehistory. Many children have been exposed to dogs, but *Yukon* explores another side of man's best friend.

Pre-reading Questions

1. Do you have a pet?
2. Does your pet have a job?
3. What is a sled?
4. Can animals be trained to do jobs?
5. Can dogs understand humans?
6. What animals can learn tricks?
7. What is a litter?
8. Have you ever been in a race?
9. How do you prepare for a race?
10. What is a musher?

The questions above will set the stage for reading *Yukon: Sled Dog* and introduce your child to some of the concepts in the book.

Alaska Background Discussion:

Use the questions above to introduce your child to background information on sled dogs, Alaska, and the Iditarod Trail Race.

Key Points:

- Discuss the difference between pets and working animals. Link to a child-friendly website on working animals:
<http://www.sphumane.com/wp-content/uploads/Working-Animals.pdf>
- Compare the climate and weather of Alaska to where you live. Links to info on Alaska:
<http://www.alaska.gov/>
<http://alaska.gov/kids/learn/facts.htm>
- Compare animals that live in Alaska to the animals where you live. Link to a website about the wildlife of Alaska:
<http://www.alaskawildlife.org/animals/more-animals/>
- Compare dog sled races and the Iditarod to sports that are popular where you live. Link to more information on the Iditarod:
<http://iditarod.com/>

Pre-reading Geography Activity:

Have your child become familiar with Alaska and the Iditarod with a map activity.

1. Use a North American map to lead your child in finding the location of both your class and Alaska.
2. Have him/her complete a blank physical map of North America with the following:
 - a. Bodies of water
 - b. Mountains
 - c. Neighboring countries
 - d. Cities – Your city, capitols and start and stop point of the Iditarod.

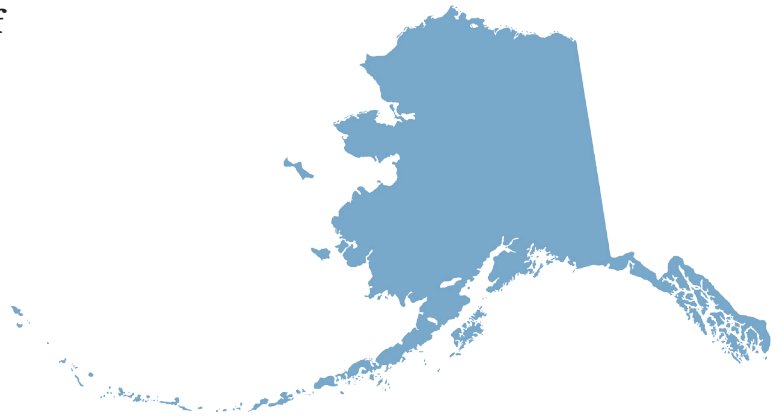
Printable map of North America:

http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pdf/n_america_nl.pdf

3. Have your child measure the size of Alaska and compare it to both the size of your state and the US as a whole.

Printable maps of the US:

<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/usa.html>



Post-reading Geography Activity:

1. Discuss the length of the Iditarod Race (1,049 miles in 10 to 17 days).
2. Use a modern map to show possible locations 1049 miles away from your house.
3. Discuss some of the physical barriers that would affect travelling that distance on foot.
4. Writing exercise:
 - a. Your child will write three journal entries about the race.
 - b. The first will be the beginning of the race.
 - c. The second will be the middle of the race.
 - d. The final entry will be the end of the race.

Dog Sled Art/Dough Activity:

Your child will create their own three-dimensional dog sled with their home-made dough.

Dough Materials (per batch/color):

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ½ cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 ½ cups boiling water
- A few drops of food coloring
- 1 mixing bowl
- 1 large spoon
- 1 measuring cup

Recipe Directions:

1. Have your child measure out and mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in the bowl (for younger children mark and label whole numbers and halves on your measuring cup).
2. You will add the boiling water.
3. Stir continuously until the dough becomes sticky.
4. Let your child add the food coloring (a few drops in each batch).
5. Allow dough to cool (3 - 4 minutes).
6. Remove dough from bowl and knead it for a couple of minutes until it is no longer sticky, adding flour if necessary.
7. Store dough in a plastic container or plastic ziplock bag.

After making your dough and letting it cool, provide your child with a variety of craft materials and help them make a sled and a dog. I recommend popsicle sticks and toothpicks to help keep the sleds stay together. Place the sleds in a safe, warm location and let them harden overnight.

My Pet Brainstorming/Writing Lesson:

Your child will write about a pet they have, have had in the past, or would like to have one day. Give each child two sheets of paper, one for drawing and one for writing. Have him/her draw a picture of their pet using crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers. Help your child brainstorm for words to describe their pet. Help him/her come up with 5 -7 descriptive words which they will write down around the picture of their pet. Using their descriptive words, they will write a paragraph about their pet.

Vocabulary for Yukon: Sled Dog Activity Guide:

As a post-reading activity ask your child to define the following vocabulary in their own words:

1. **Litter** – a number of young born to an animal at a single time
2. **Sled** – a vehicle mounted on runners for transportation over snow or ice
3. **Kennel** – a building for raising, training, or boarding cats or dogs
4. **Iditarod** – the annual dogsled race which is 1,049 miles long, and travels from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska
5. **Training** – to make ready for a task or test of skill
6. **Endurance** – the ability to withstand hardship, pain, or other adverse conditions
7. **Alaska** – a state of the United States in NW North America
8. **Musher** – a person who participates in races with a dog sled team
9. **Sled Dog** – a dog trained to pull a sled, usually in a team, especially in the Arctic
10. **Weather** – the state of the atmosphere with respect to temperature, wetness or dryness, wind speed, clearness, or cloudiness

Activity: Which is Warmer?

Your child will examine three different materials (cotton, polyester, and wool) to determine which would keep them warmer in the snow. Your child will conduct an organized experiment using socks, ice, and a timer to evaluate which material will keep them the warmest.

Materials:

3 small ziplock baggies

Ice cubes (Please ensure the ice cubes are uniform and stay in a cooler or freezer until it is time for the experiment.)

3 socks: 1 cotton, 1 polyester, and 1 wool (or alternative materials)

1 stopwatch

1 experiment handout (see below)

Steps:

1. Give your child an experiment handout (it may be fun for you to do one as well).
2. Have your child feel the socks and put them on their hands.
3. Your child will then create a hypothesis of which sock they think will be the warmest.
4. Your child will take a turn placing an ice cube in a ziplock bag.
 - a. They will place their bagged ice cube into the sock and hold it in their hand.
 - b. You will start and stop the stopwatch.
 - c. Your child will hold the sock with the ice firmly and call out stop when they feel the ice melt completely.
 - d. Have your child record the time it took their ice to melt.
5. Have your child compare their information and then write a summary and a conclusion to the experiment.



Which is Warmer?

My hypothesis

Name:	Melt Time- Cotton	Melt Time- Polyester	Melt Time- Wool

Summary:

Conclusion:

Yukon: Sled Dog Word Search

U	W	A	I	F	I	K	O	O	F	F	K	D	W	X
N	P	E	X	B	E	N	G	Q	B	D	B	O	V	D
B	T	Q	A	N	Q	N	F	U	G	R	N	R	R	M
V	A	O	N	T	I	E	R	Q	O	K	G	A	L	U
P	X	E	D	N	H	R	C	J	Q	Y	Q	T	I	E
N	L	J	I	M	V	E	E	N	F	P	F	I	T	N
Q	B	A	T	J	B	K	R	H	A	E	W	D	T	J
F	R	S	L	E	D	D	O	G	S	R	W	I	E	V
T	W	V	S	E	G	Q	X	J	D	U	U	S	R	E
M	W	N	E	T	W	O	B	F	E	J	M	D	N	H
O	J	U	V	D	M	F	N	G	L	P	Q	H	N	L
A	U	Z	A	N	S	Z	X	E	S	Z	U	U	U	E
O	W	I	E	S	U	U	H	D	R	Y	S	N	U	A
N	E	M	C	I	C	F	R	I	Z	D	O	C	V	O
A	K	S	A	L	A	U	D	O	X	E	A	D	W	R

ALASKA

ENDURANCE

IDITAROD

KENNEL

LITTER

MUSHER

SLED

SLED DOG

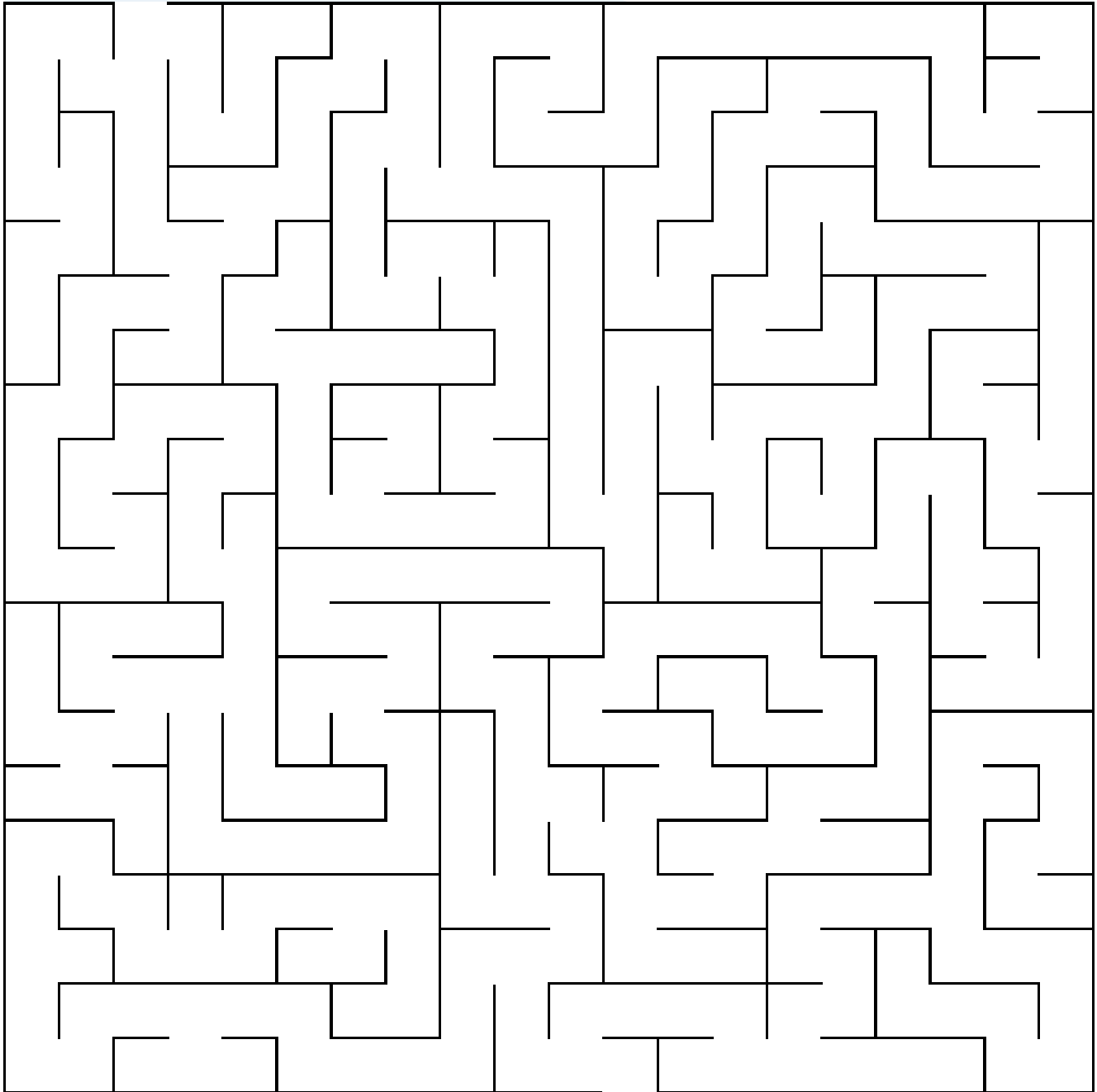
TRAINING

WEATHER



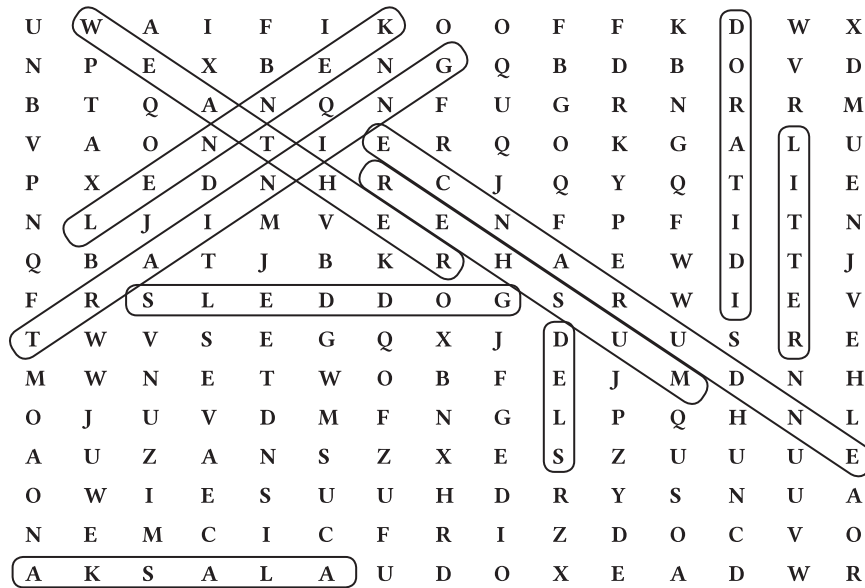
Yukon: Sled Dog Maze

Help Yukon lead her team to the finish line of the Iditarod.

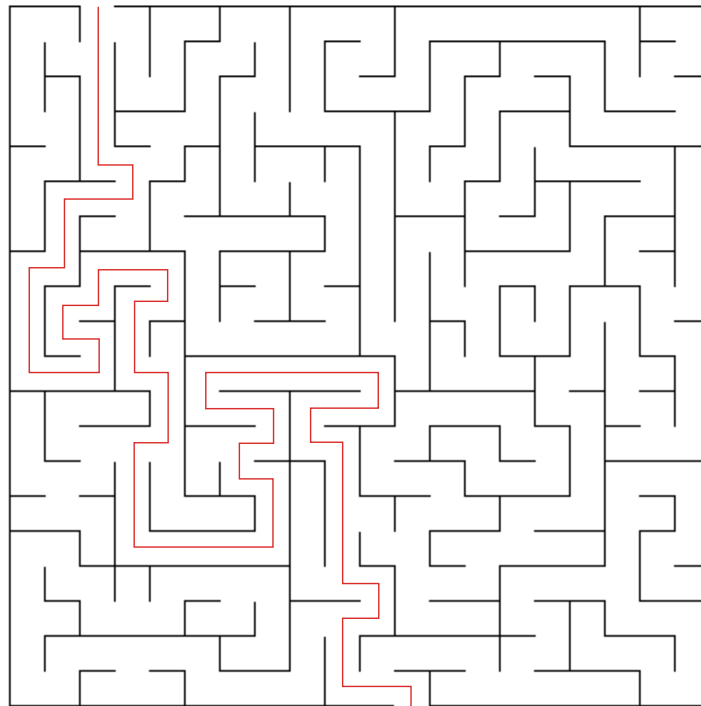


Yukon: Sled Dog Activity Answer Key

Word Search Key



Crossword Puzzle Key



This guide was created by Chris Valcarcel, Educational Consultant, and Jennifer Messinger, Graphic Designer

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acp-institutional-feedback@amazon.com

Free Common Core Educator Guide also available on Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/177RGQ6>

