

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

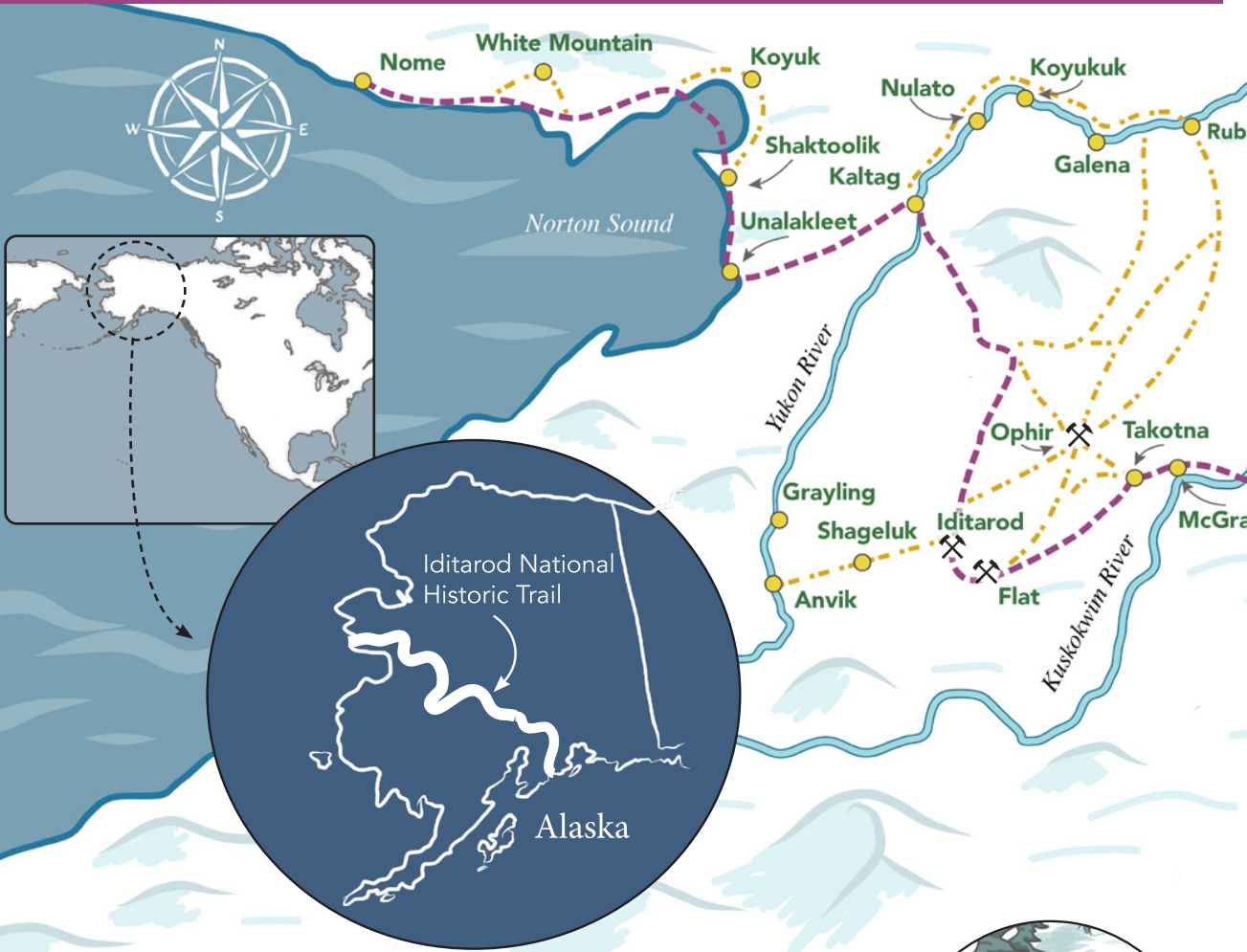
# Junior Trailblazer



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# What is the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT)?

The INHT is a system of trails. Some of those trails first connected Alaska Native villages. Others opened up Alaska for the gold rush. Together they celebrate Alaska's history and dog mushing legacy. They also continue to be vital for travel and recreation across Alaska today.



## What is a National Historic Trail?

All National Historic Trails played an important role in America's history—so important that Congress gave them this special designation. The Iditarod Trail was the first National Historic Trail in Alaska.



# What is a Trailblazer?



Trailblazers are folks who make and mark trails.



Trailblazers pieced together most of the Iditarod Trail. Now, volunteer groups called Trailblazers help maintain it.

Tanana



*Look for gold nuggets throughout the booklet to find fun facts!*



*The Iditarod National Historic Trail system is more than 2,300 miles long!*

Nikolai

Skwentna

Knik

Anchorage

Girdwood

Hope

Moose Pass

Seward

Alaska Range

Cook Inlet

Prince William Sound

Resurrection Bay

## Become a Junior Trailblazer!

**STEP 1:** Complete at least four activities and the Junior Trailblazer Pledge.

**STEP 2:** Follow the directions on the back cover to receive your reward.

**STEP 3:** Congratulations! You are a Junior Trailblazer!

-  Iditarod Trail
-  connector trail
-  community
-  historic mining town



# History of the Iditarod Trail

The Iditarod National Historic Trail is an important part of Alaskan history and culture. It has been the setting for many stories in the past and continues to host incredible stories to this day!

1. Unscramble the fun facts on the timeline.
2. Solve the "Hidden Word" by using the circled letters.
3. You are part of history! Add your story to the timeline.

## FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS

The Alaska Natives established and used trails for travel and

— —  —

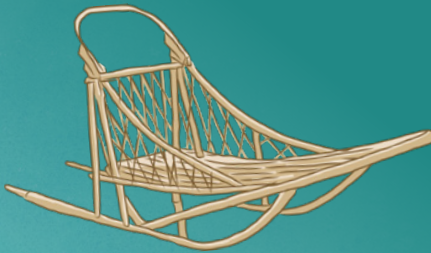
**ATDRE**

throughout Alaska.

## 1914-1920'S

— — — — —  
**SRHMUES** with government contracts transported mail and freight.

From 1910-11, Walter Goodwin and his team marked and cleared the trail.



People traveled the trail by dogsled throughout its history.



In 1909, Jujiro Wada and Alfred Lowell proved the trail was a great way to travel from Seward to the gold fields in Iditarod.

## 1908

Prospectors struck gold on Christmas Day near what would become the town of

— — —  —  — — — .

**ADITIRDO**

Gold mining activities continue in places along the trail today.





## HIDDEN WORD

Traveling the Iditarod Trail is always an

\_\_\_\_\_.

## TODAY

You are a part of the story of the trail, so the next important date is up to you! What part will you play in the future of the trail?

*(Ideas: tell others about the trail, visit the trail, volunteer)*



People built roadhouses along the trail about one day's journey apart.

## 1920-30'S

Trains and airplanes became popular ways to

\_\_\_\_\_

## EVTALR

in Alaska. Parts of the trail became neglected.



People use the trail to travel between villages & sections of the trail are still used to transport mail!



Shelter cabins still provide safe places to rest along the trail.



## 1973

Mushers competed in the first Iditarod

\_\_\_\_\_

## DLODSGE

Race to highlight the importance of the trail.

## 1978

Congress designated the Iditarod a

\_\_\_\_\_

## AOATNINL

Historic Trail.



People use the trail in all sorts of ways: hiking, biking, skiing, snowmachining, and more!

# What's in a Roadhouse?

Gold seekers traveled the Iditarod Trail from Seward to the gold fields in the Interior. Like hotels today, **roadhouses** were places that travelers could get a good meal and rest for the night. Roadhouses along the Iditarod Trail were about a day's travel apart from each other.

**DIRECTIONS:** All the items listed below were common around roadhouses. Circle each hidden item you find in the drawing below.

Bag of mail

Poke (small pouch for gold)

Dog food

Plate of food

Snowshoes

Mittens

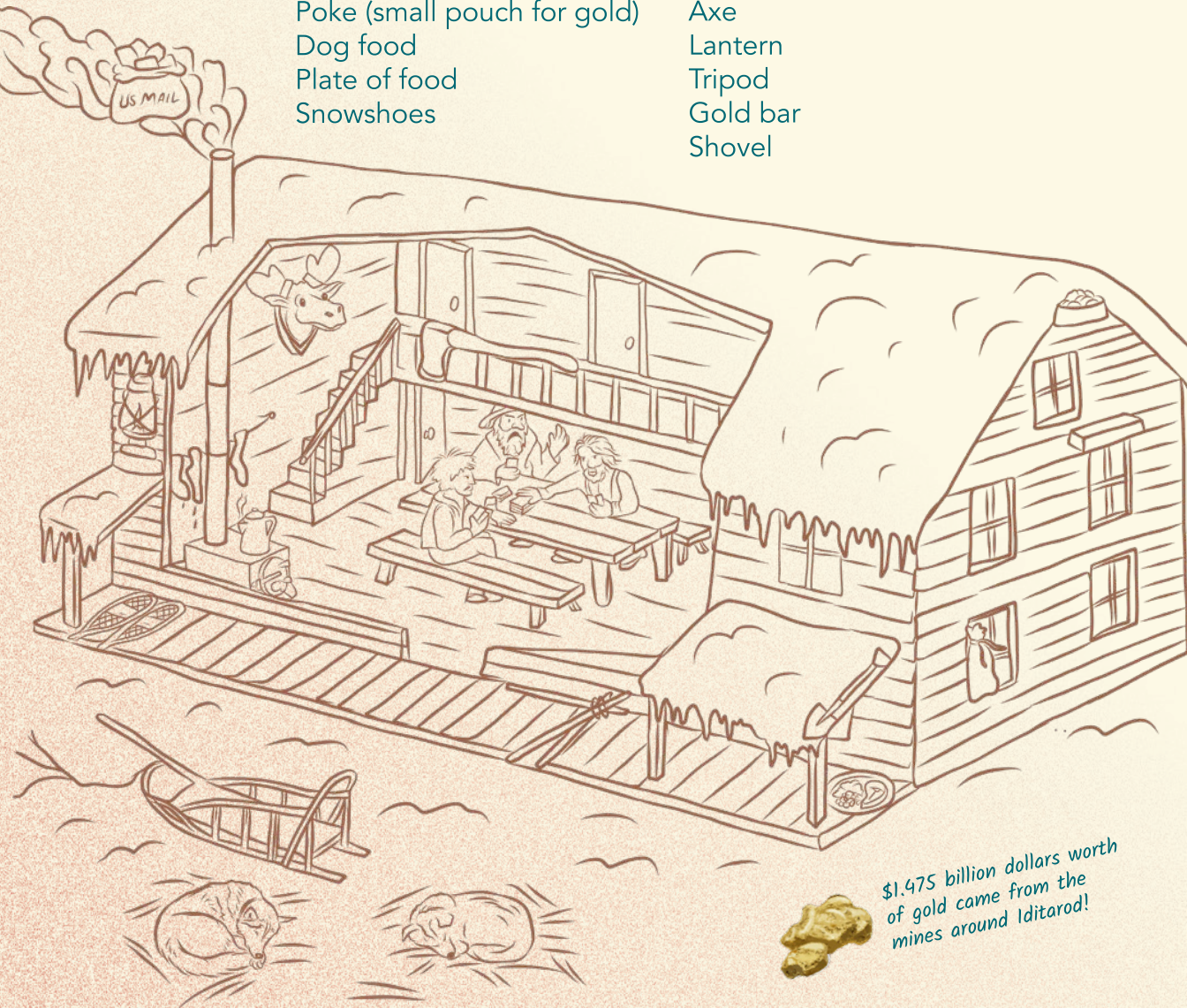
Axe

Lantern

Tripod

Gold bar

Shovel



\$1.475 billion dollars worth  
of gold came from the  
mines around Iditarod!



# A-MAZE-ing Journeys

The northern section of the Iditarod Trail crosses a vast, open landscape. **Tripods**, three large wooden poles that form a triangle, mark the trail in this region. Travel through the maze as a musher, a snowmachiner, or both. If you encounter bad weather, find a shelter cabin for safety!

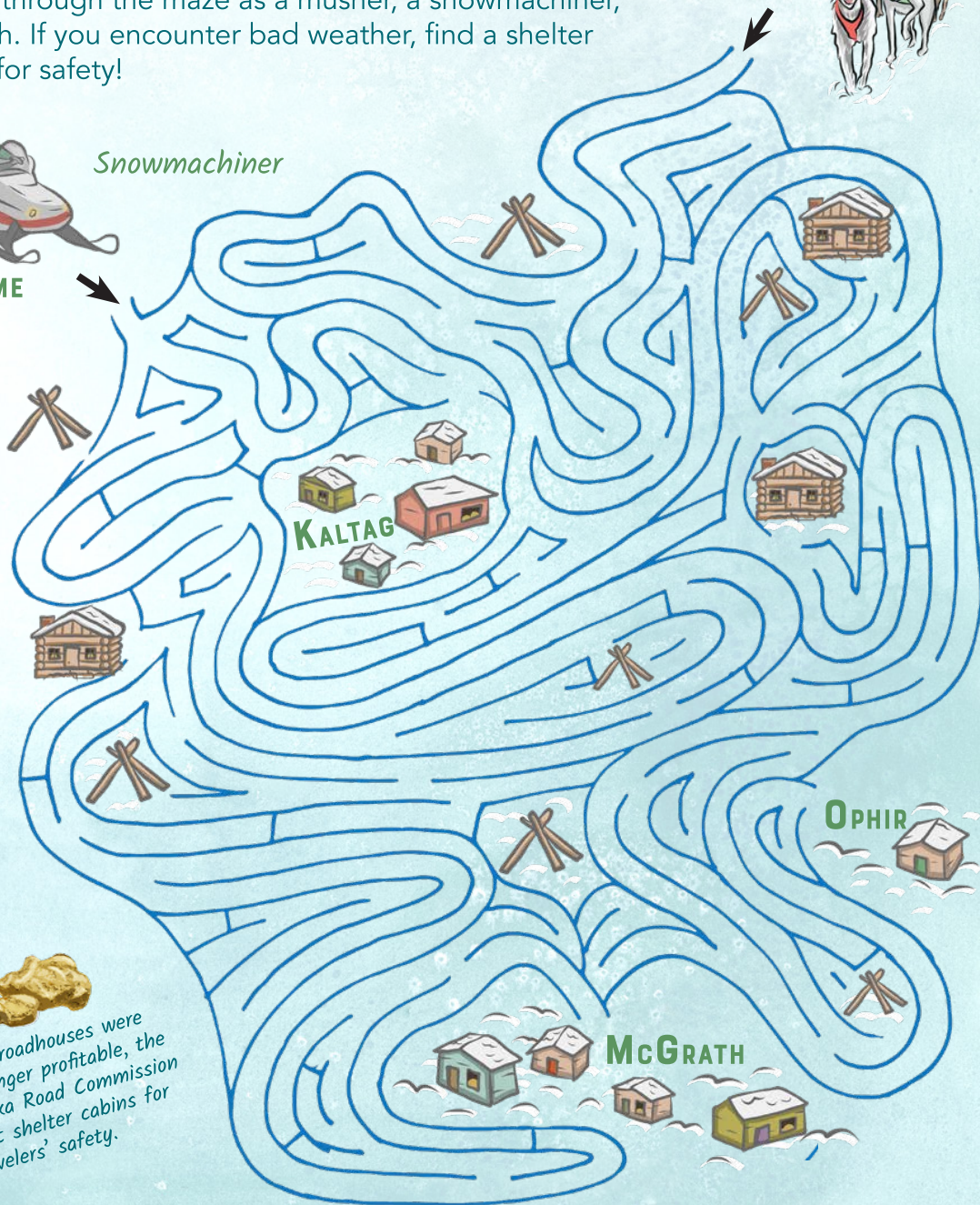
Musher

UNALAKLEET



Snowmachiner

NOME



KALTAG

OPHIR

McGRATH

After roadhouses were no longer profitable, the Alaska Road Commission built shelter cabins for travelers' safety.



# Race Across Alaska

Between 1910 and 1912, ten thousand people rushed to mining camps around Iditarod hoping to strike it rich.

Whiteout! You can't see the trail. Go back 1 to get out of the storm.

The Iditarod National Historic Trail is America's "Last Great Gold Rush Trail."

You get a warm meal and rest at a roadhouse. You feel great!

Your dog team is rested and strong. Move ahead 1.

Kids lived in Iditarod and other mining towns. They even had to go to school!

Back in gold rush days, competitive dog sled races were popular in winter.

You fell through the ice crossing a river. Lose 1 turn while you dry your gear.

Norton Sound is frozen. You speed across the ice. Move ahead 1.

Tripods clearly mark the way!

Good trail conditions make travel easy today.

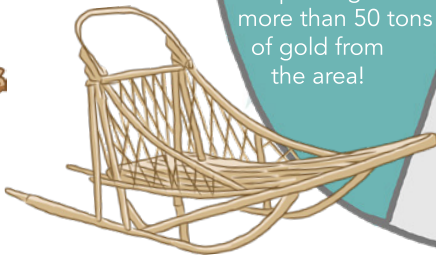
The Iditarod strike was BIG! People dug out more than 50 tons of gold from the area!

Oh no! You lost your hat and gloves. Go back 1 to find them.

There was no dog kibble back in gold rush days. Many mushers fed their dogs dried salmon - something they still do today!

There's no wood at the shelter cabin. Lose 1 turn while you chop the wood.

Northern Lights across



# DIRECTIONS

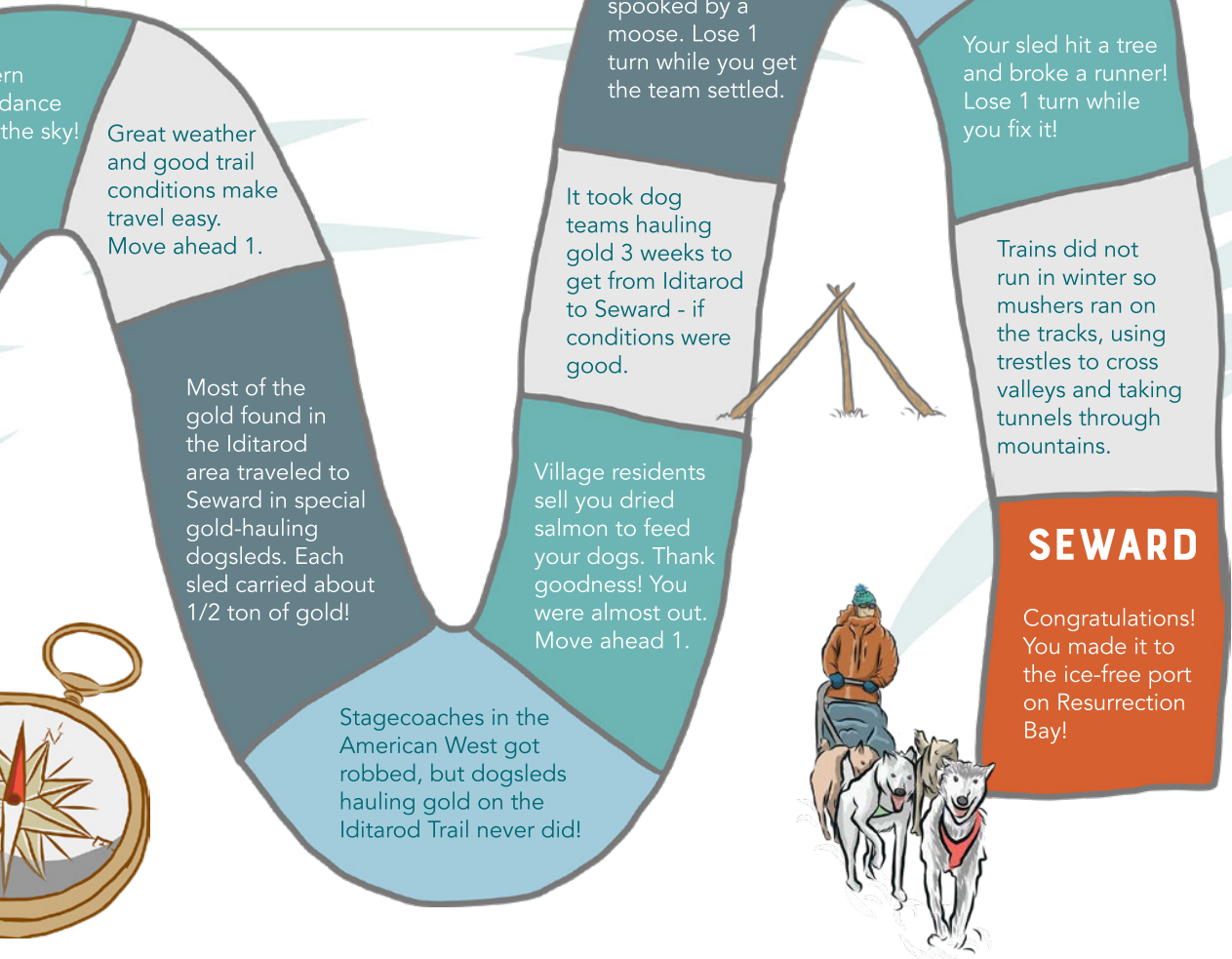
Your sled is packed and your team is ready. Race a friend from Nome to Seward to see who can deliver their gold first!

Collect an item for each player to use as a game piece. Flip a coin to see how many spaces to move:

Heads: move 2 spaces

Tails: move 1 space

Stay alert along the trail and enjoy your adventure!



# Trail Profiles - North & South

Travel the length of the Iditarod Trail and you will encounter very different geography, weather, plant and animal communities, and ways of traveling.

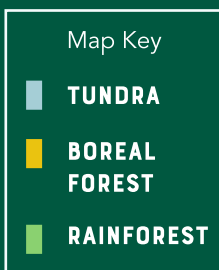
1. Read the profiles of each section.
2. Create a profile for a place you like to walk where you live.



The southern portion of the INHT travels through the northernmost temperate rainforest in North America. Temperate rainforests are cool and wet.



Tundra is a large, treeless landscape with little precipitation. It is covered with snow for most of the year.



## RAINFORREST TRAIL

**Where:** southernmost part of the Iditarod Trail

**When:** travel year-round

**Favorite color:** green

**Favorite food:** mushrooms

**Trail markings:** blazes, reflectors, and logos

**Super power:** 120 inches of rain a year!

**About me:** I think of myself as the *Trail of Lots* - lots of rain, lots of plants, and lots of people hiking. Under my tall tree canopy, you may spot moose, black bears, and grouse.



**SOUTH**

king  
bolete



Sitka  
spruce



lupine



## TUNDRA TRAIL

**Where:** northernmost part of the Iditarod Trail

**When:** travel in winter is easiest

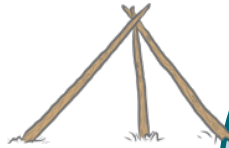
**Favorite color:** white

**Favorite food:** blueberries

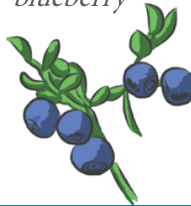
**Trail markings:** tripods

**Super power:** really strong winds!

**About me:** Very few trees across my landscape means incredible views all around. I am used as a road by wild animals and people who live in remote villages, but I disappear in the summer into wet, uneven ground that is difficult to walk across.



*blueberry*



*alder*



*salmonberry*



## MY NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL

**It is a...**  Trail  Road/sidewalk  
 Park  ATV/Snow-machine trail

**Where:**

**When:**

**Favorite color:**

**Favorite food:**

**Super power:**

**About me:**

*Draw your trail here*

# The Mail Trail

The Iditarod Trail was an important mail delivery route. The postcards, newspapers, catalogs, and letters that mail carriers hauled on their sleds provided residents of rural communities with an essential connection to the outside world.

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Create your own letter about your adventures along the Iditarod Trail by filling in the blanks on the next page.
2. Read your adventure out loud!



*Dog teams carried up to 1,000 pounds of mail and freight to and from the mining towns two or three times a week!*



NOW



THEN



Dear \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
friend's name

I'm writing to let you know that I made it to \_\_\_\_\_ !  
an INHT community

What a \_\_\_\_\_ trip it has been! Things  
adjective

started off \_\_\_\_\_ when I hooked my lead  
adverb

\_\_\_\_\_ to the dogsled. The rest of team  
animal

started \_\_\_\_\_ and we were off. My team  
verb ending in "ing"

and I headed to \_\_\_\_\_ . It took us  
an INHT community

\_\_\_\_\_ days to get there. Along the way, I \_\_\_\_\_  
a number verb

a \_\_\_\_\_ . My team and I also had to  
noun

\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ .  
verb body of water

It was \_\_\_\_\_ but we made it through.  
adjective

We were about \_\_\_\_\_ miles from our destination, when  
a number

a \_\_\_\_\_ was blocking the trail. Luckily,  
noun

as soon as I started \_\_\_\_\_ , it  
verb ending in "ing"

\_\_\_\_\_ away. I hope you can come with me next time!  
verb, past tense

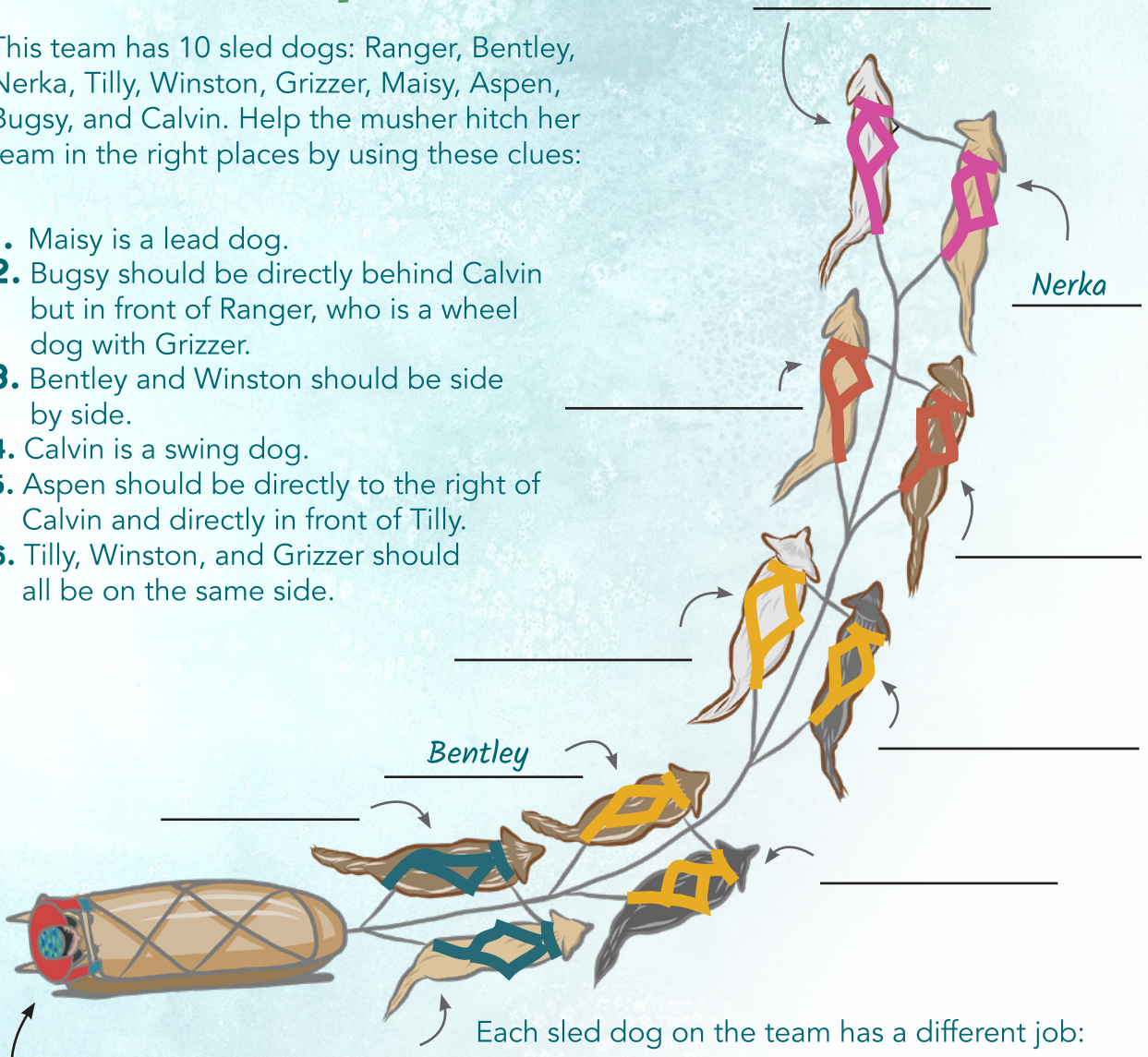
Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_  
your name



# Musher Mixup

This team has 10 sled dogs: Ranger, Bentley, Nerka, Tilly, Winston, Grizzer, Maisy, Aspen, Buggy, and Calvin. Help the musher hitch her team in the right places by using these clues:

1. Maisy is a lead dog.
2. Buggy should be directly behind Calvin but in front of Ranger, who is a wheel dog with Grizzer.
3. Bentley and Winston should be side by side.
4. Calvin is a swing dog.
5. Aspen should be directly to the right of Calvin and directly in front of Tilly.
6. Tilly, Winston, and Grizzer should all be on the same side.



Each sled dog on the team has a different job:

- LEAD DOGS:** in the front and follow the musher's commands
- SWING DOGS:** behind the lead dogs, help turn the sled by following the lead dogs
- TEAM DOGS:** provide power and speed
- WHEEL DOGS:** closest to the sled, are the strongest dogs pulling the sled

# Junior Trailblazer Pledge



**AS A JUNIOR TRAILBLAZER, I**

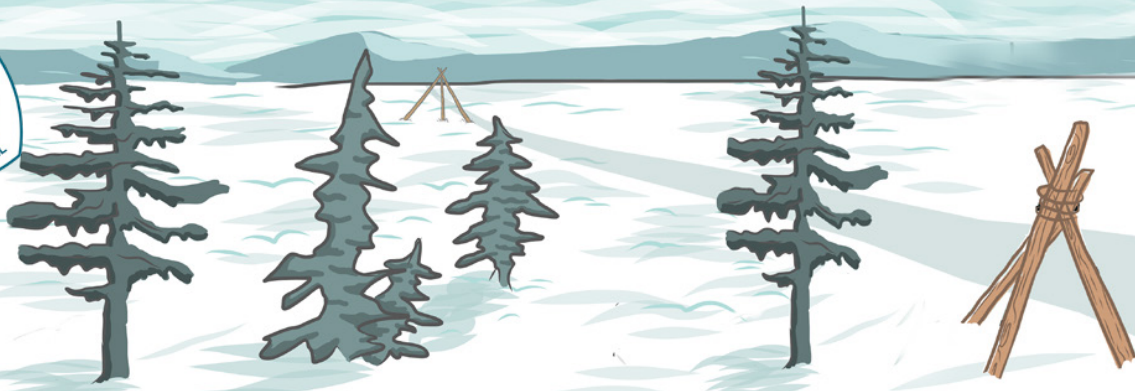
\_\_\_\_\_ ,  
(Name)

promise to share the story of the INHT and be a steward for it in the future. As a steward, I will do my part to honor the rich history of the trail and be a positive part of the story to come.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Trail Partner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)





## Ready to receive your reward for becoming a Junior Trailblazer?

Bring your completed booklet to one of the In-Person sites listed below or have an adult send an email to one of the addresses under Email that includes a list of the four activities you did and your mailing address.

### In-Person

#### **U.S. Forest Service**

Chugach National Forest  
161 E. 1st Avenue, Door #8  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Glacier Ranger District  
145 Forest Station Road  
Girdwood, AK 99587

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center *(Summer only)*  
Portage Lake Loop  
Portage, AK 99587

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

Campbell Creek Science Center  
5600 Science Center Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507

#### **National Park Service**

Kenai Fjords National Park  
1212 4th Avenue  
Seward, AK 99664

Alaska Public Lands Information Center  
605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

### Email

#### **Chugach National Forest**

[mailroom\\_r10\\_chugach@usda.gov](mailto:mailroom_r10_chugach@usda.gov)

#### **BLM Campbell Creek Science Center**

[sciencecenter@blm.gov](mailto:sciencecenter@blm.gov)

### **Want to learn more about the Iditarod Trail?**

#### **Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance**

[iditarod100.org](http://iditarod100.org)

#### **U.S Forest Service - Chugach National Forest**

[fs.usda.gov/chugach](http://fs.usda.gov/chugach)

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

[blm.gov/alaska/iditarod](http://blm.gov/alaska/iditarod)

