

TRADITIONAL PLACE NAMES: PLOT THE COURSE GR: 6-8 (LESSON 2)

Elder Quote/Belief:

Portlock writes: “Toatucktellingnuke gave me to understand that the country he came from was called Cheeneecock (Chenega), and situated in the South West part of the Sound”... “I learned from my late visitors that the country where Sheenawoa and his tribe take up their residence, is called Toaticklagmute (Tatitlarmiut); that they were the most powerful tribe of the Sound, and hated by all their neighbours, with whom they were continuously at variance.”¹

Grade Level: 6-8

Overview:

It was told that the migration of the Chugach people began a long time ago, when the glaciers that once covered the Prince William Sound began melting and exposing the land underneath. The Chugach region has been inhabited by the Alutiiq Sugpiaq people for thousands of years. The earliest documentation known compiled in *Chugach Eskimo, pages 20-21*, identifies eight groups of most importance in Prince William Sound. These original tribes/groups/villages had flexible borders with smaller seasonal camps within the territory. The Chugach people traveled throughout the Prince William Sound by kayak or on foot, moving within the territory to the most habitable location for that season. The prehistoric people of the Chugach region traveled continuously throughout the year in search of an area that was abundant in wildlife that would provide food and clothing. These villages and camps are abandoned because people started to move to more centralized locations, eventually leading to the establishment of the communities we know today.

Standards:

<i>AK Cultural:</i>	<i>AK Content Science:</i>	<i>CRCC:</i>
A (3) Culturally knowledgeable students are well grounded in the cultural heritage and traditions of their community.	G (3) A student should understand the history and nature of science	Geography –G (1) A student should learn the names of places in Sugt’stun and the history of the places of their region.

Lesson Goal:

The students will learn of original locations of the Chugach people, why and where they migrated throughout the Chugach Region, and discover more about the terrain and how the ancestors knew when to travel utilizing the tides to help navigate efficiently and faster to destinations.

Lesson Objective(s): Students will:

- Learn the history of the Chugach Region
- Learn how the Chugach people migrated to different locations throughout Prince William Sound by qayaq and plot the course on maps utilizing SimTable or Avenza.
- Learn the Sugt’stun and Eyak Vocabulary

Sugt'stun Dialect

Vocabulary Words:

English:	Prince William Sound:	Lower Cook Inlet:	Eyak:
My Village		Nunaka	
Kayak	qayaq	qayaq	gAyAXgug
Ocean		Imaq	lahdz
This is a trail		Una aprun	
Where are you going?		Nat'en agu'uten	
Where are you walking?		Nat'en Kuingcit?	
Where are you boating to?		Nat'en ayugit?	Travel by boat qe

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Elder or Recognized Expert to share traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)
- Chugach Region and community maps (PDF file- for Avenza)
- Pen and Paper
- iPad or Laptop
- SimTable
- Avenza application on smart device

Books:

- [Chugach Navigation](#)
[Chugach Eskimo](#), Pg. 20, "The original eight groups" and Pg. 135, "How Different Villages Started in Prince William Sound"

Website:

- <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/map/index.html>
- <http://chugachheritageak.org/resources>
 - SimTable Prompts <http://chugachheritageak.org/resource-files/SimTable.pdf>

Teacher Preparation:

- Invite an Elder or Recognized Expert to share TEK of stories pertaining to original peoples and migrations to the present communities.
- Review with students of the proper ways to show respect for Elder guest in classroom.
- Request the SimTable from Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation office. Download the [SimTable Prompt](#)
- Download Avenza app and familiarize how to use it. Need to also download PDF files of maps.
- Review the listed books and stories.

- Make copies of Chugach Navigation, one packet per student or allow the students to review the documents online.
- Search for a map of Chugach Region that has a good legend.
- Have the students use iPads or laptops to visit the NOAA website and review the tide & current predictions table for the activity

Opening:

The Chugach people have occupied the region for thousands of years. The ancestors lived a traditional life of traveling to gather, hunt, fish, trade and war. In the past, the Chugach people traveled across Prince William Sound by qayaq (kayak). We will review maps of the Chugach Region, read through the packet *Chugach Navigation* and excerpts from *Chugach Eskimo* and through the use of SimTable or Avenza app, we will plot a course the ancestors travelled by qayaq. We will also delve into how they determined the best time to travel based on the tides and currents in the area. From this we will calculate the travel time and distance from one location to another as if traveling by qayaq.

Activities:

Class I:

1. As a class review the books *Chugach Navigation* and *Chugach Eskimo*, to read the explanation of how and why the Chugach ancestors traveled throughout Prince William Sound by qayaq.
2. Ask students to search for a map of the Chugach Region that has a good legend to convert distance measurements to use for lesson.
3. Pick a starting point (in or near your community) and a destination, preferable same or close to the traditional travel route explained in book.
4. Plot the best course to travel by qayaq based on the readings and the tide charts.
5. Using the legends from map, measure the distance and convert the distance keeping in mind any stops for rest or overnight stays, if necessary.
6. Review the NOAA website and review the tide and current speed and directions for incoming and outgoing tides. Take this information into account for next step.
7. Calculate the time it will take to make the trip. Distance divided by rate in miles per hour = the time it would take to get to your location ($T=d/s$). First time Kayakers average a speed of 2.5 MPH speed increases with the help of the tides and currents.
8. Create a chart with the distance and times it would take to travel to all communities in the Chugach Region.

Assessment:

- Students can correctly calculate the distance it would take to travel by kayak.
- Students can plot out the course of where the Chugach people traditionally traveled throughout the Prince William Sound.
- Students can say and understand the Sugt'stun and Eyak vocabulary words.

ⁱ Birket-Smith, K. (1983) *Chugach Eskimo*, Pg.21

