

TRADITIONAL TRANSPORTATION: FINDING THE WAY GR: PREK-2 (LESSON 7&8)

Elder Quote/Belief:



"I used to walk twelve hours, thirteen hours from Port Graham to Port Chatham to Portlock (Koyuktolik Bay) when I was twelve or thirteen, whole bunch of us...we talked twelve or thirteen hours all day."

-Anesia Metcalf, Port Graham

Grade Level: PreK-2

Overview: Land trails through the Chugach Region connected villages, hunting sites, and allowed the Sugpiaq to carry their qayaq due to bad weather or to hike on an overland route to another body of water.

Standards:

AK Cultural:	AK Content Science:	CRCC:
D(1) Culturally-knowledgeable students are able to engage effectively in learning activities that are based on traditional ways of knowing and learning.	F(3) A student should understand the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social and personal perspectives.	G(2) Students should be able to read local, regional and navigational maps.

Lesson Goal: Learn about Sugpiaq trail blazing and how to make trail markers.

Lesson Objective(s): Students will:

- Learn methods used by the Sugpiaq to mark a trail.
- Create trail markers from materials for a local trail.

Vocabulary Words:

Sugt'stun Dialects

English:	Prince William Sound:	Lower Cook Inlet:	<u>Eyak:</u>
Tree	nuguwaggtuq	napaq	lis
Travel	ang'asik ang'asiggluni ang'asigglutukut	ang'asik	<u>qe</u> (Travel by boat)
Stone Adz	Tupuuluq	Tupuuluq	<u>XAt'aa</u>

Materials/Resources Needed:

- If possible, invite an Elder or Recognized Expert from the Region to share their traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and expertise to enrich the lesson(s).
- Ask for parent volunteers to assist with the trail walks and games
- Chugach Region Map
- 20 Whistles with lanyards
- Sharpie
- Acrylic Paint and Paint Brushes
- Acrylic Clear Sealer (spray can) **Teacher Use Only**
- Reusable bags (for collecting materials)
- “Trail Markers” by National Wildlife Federation, 2011
 - <http://nwf.org/Kids/Family-Fun/outdoor-activities/~media/10C32E59AD304E508A142449599054D7.ashx>

Document:

- [Alexandrovsk No. 2 pg. 54; “Trails”](#)

Teacher Preparation:

- Invite an Elder or Recognized Expert that could share their expertise on the lesson content.
- Before the Elder or Recognized Expert arrives, please review with all of the students, ways to show respect for the Elder during their visit.
- [Read Alexandrovsk No. 2 pg. 54; “Trails”](#)
- Make Copies of “Trail Markers” by National Wildlife Federation, 2011

For Class 1:

- Locate and set up paint supplies
- Cover tables with butcher paper
- Distribute painting supplies and paint brushes to each student

For Class II:

- Ask at least one teacher or adult volunteer for each group to accompany field trip activity.
- Have whistles for each group member and make sure they know to only blow the whistle for emergencies.

Opening:

The majority of the time, our ancestors would travel by qayaq, anyaq or dugout canoe, but when there was bad weather they would walk on trails. These trails were used by both people and wild animals. The Sugpiaq/ Eyak people would create their own trail markers to help guide their way home or to their next destination so they would not get lost.

There were different ways to mark trails. One common way used throughout the Chugach Region was known as “trail blazing”, or *cultural modified trees* (CMT). Traditionally, the Sugpiaq/Eyak people would make marks on trees on a pathway using a stone adz. This marking (modification) would be at eye level and alternate between the sides of a trail to keep people on the right path.

According to the article *Trails* from Alexandrovsk, page 54, trail blazing was used by the Sugpiaq people before the Civilian Conservation Corps. (C.C.C) trails were established. The blazing helped guide their way from villages, hunting/fishing sites and to celebrations.

Activities:

- If an Elder is available, provide time for Elder to talk about traditional trails used in the local area. If possible practice Sugt'stun or Eyak vocabulary words.

Class I: Trail Markers

1. Take a hike to a local trail or around your school to look at different types of trail signs and markers together fist sized rocks, small pebbles, pine cones, and small sticks. Teachers will collect all the materials gathered and label the baggies with student names to use for a classroom activity.
 2. Using the handout “[Trail Making Marker](#)” by the National Wildlife Federation, teacher explanation and the materials the students collected on the hike (Except for the fist-sized rock. As a class, practice making the different types of trail marker for Go Straight, Turn Right/Left and Wrong Way.
 3. Share information about the Sugpiaq of the Region and how they would mark or “blaze” trees.
 4. Hand out the fist-sized rocks back to the students and explain they will be painting their rock for a trail marker. Please make sure your desks are covered with butcher paper.
 - Students come up with a trail marker design and paint the rock.
- Painted rocks can be used on a school trail or brought home for marking a trail.

Class II: Trail Games

1. Explain to the students that they will be playing hide and seek but with trail marking rules.
2. Divide into two groups: Trailblazers and Trackers.
3. Remind the students to stay together in their group and the leader will be given a whistle.
4. Inform the students that if someone becomes separated, everyone else stays together in one place and blow your whistle until help arrives.
5. Explain that the Trailblazers team will be in charge of making a trail using a specific trail marking method. Once the Trailblazers finished marking a trail, they will hide as a group. After 15 minutes the Trackers group will set off to follow their trail. Once the Trackers find the Trailblazers, have the groups switch roles. (This game can be used with a variety of markers and different trails)
6. If time permits, the students can incorporate Treasure Hunt game. Explain that one group as Trailblazers would mark a trail and hide something special at the end for the Trackers to find. Once found then they would switch roles.
7. Explain that the students could play the Trail Home game at home with their family, like when going on a hike with their family. They would mark a trail when exploring, picking berries, etc. and use your trail markers to help find way back home.

Assessment:

- Students can explain what is a trail marker, what is trail blazing and list traditional ways the trails were marked.
- Students will make and complete trailmakers from materials they collected on a hike or around the school grounds.
- Students can successfully say the Sugt'stun/Eyak vocabulary words.

Trail Making Markers



Go Straight
Ahead



Turn Right



Turn Left



Wrong Way

Created by National Wildlife Federation, 2011