



Where's Matt?

Objective: The students will follow Matt's daily progress and plot his location on the Iditarod map.

Materials: Iditarod Map (included), Iditarod Checkpoint and Mileage Chart (included), Dog Sled Silhouette (included), Marker and Internet Access

Time: 2 minutes at least once a day

MN Standard: **Social Studies**—*Geography: Maps and Globes*

The student will make and use maps to acquire, process, and report on the spatial organization of people and places on Earth.

- Students will compare and contrast the differences among a variety of maps and explain the appropriate use of projections, symbols, coloring and shading, and select maps appropriate for answering questions they have.

Social Studies—*Geography: Physical Features and Process*

The student will identify physical characteristics of places and use this knowledge to define regions, their relationships among regions, and their patterns of change.

- Students will describe the major physical features of the United States and the regions of the world they study.

Set Up: Hang the Iditarod Map and the Iditarod Checkpoint and Mileage Chart in the classroom, cut out the Dog Sled Silhouette (laminated for more durability) and designate a marker to draw in the progress of the musher.

Process: Have a student or group of students check www.iditarod.com click on *Race Logs*. Find "Rossi, Matt" and click on his last name. This will bring up all the information with the most recent being at the top. Have the student locate the latest checkpoint on the map. Move the silhouette to that location and draw a line with the marker from the last location to the new location. This line will display the distance Matt has traveled.

Extension: This website could be checked more than once a day and the above activity could be completed after each viewing. Using a road map or atlas, compare the difference in topography with the Iditarod Map. How are the features displayed on each map? Discuss the importance of using a topographical map in a wilderness situation such as the Iditarod.



Dog Sled Silhouette