

LOOKING FOR GOLD IN ALASKA



Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow :



In the early 1920's, settlers came to Alaska looking for gold. They traveled by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik, and from there by land into the gold fields. The trail they used to travel inland is known today as the Iditarod Trail, one of the National Historic Trails designated by the Congress of the United States. The Iditarod Trail quickly became a major thoroughfare in Alaska, as the mail and supplies were carried across this trail. People also used it to get from place to place, including the priests, ministers, and judges who had to travel between villages. In the winter, the settlers' only means of travel down this trail was via dog sled.

Once the gold rush ended, many gold-seekers went back to where they had come from, and suddenly there was much less travel on the Iditarod Trail. The introduction of the airplane in the late 1920's meant dog teams were no longer the standard mode of transportation, and of course with the airplane carrying the mail and supplies, there was less need for land travel in general. The final blow to the use of the dog teams was the appearance of snowmobiles.

By the mid 1960's, most Alaskans didn't even know the Iditarod Trail existed, or that dog teams had played a crucial role in Alaska's early settlements. Dorothy G. Page, a self-made historian, recognized how few people knew about the former use of sled dogs as working animals and about the Iditarod Trail's role in Alaska's colorful history. To raise awareness about this aspect of Alaskan history, she came up with the idea to have a dog sled race over the Iditarod Trail. She presented her idea to an enthusiastic musher, as dog sled drivers are known, named Joe Redington, Sr. Soon the Pages and the Redingtons were working together to promote the idea of the Iditarod race.

Many people worked to make the first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race a reality in 1967. The Aurora Dog Mushers Club, along with men from the Adult Camp in Sutton, helped clear years of overgrowth from the first nine miles of the Iditarod Trail. To raise interest in the race, a \$25,000 purse was offered, with Joe Redington donating one acre of his land to help raise the funds. The short race, approximately 27 miles long, was put on a second time in 1969.

After these first two successful races, the goal was to lengthen the race a little further to the ghost town of Iditarod by 1973. However in 1972, the U.S. Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise, and so in 1973, the decision was made to take the race all the way to the city of Nome —over 1,000 miles. There were many who believed it could not be done and that it was crazy to send a bunch of mushers out into the vast, uninhabited Alaskan wilderness. But the race went! 22 mushers finished that year, and to date over 400 people have completed it.

1) The primary purpose of this passage is to :

- recount the history of the Iditarod trail and the race that memorializes it
- describe the obstacles involved in founding the Iditarod race
- outline the circumstances that led to the establishment of the Iditarod Trail
- reestablish the important place of the Iditarod Trail in Alaska's history © Copyright Read Theory LLC, 2012. All rights reserved.

2) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following contributed to the disuse of the Iditarod Trail except

- more modern forms of transportation
- depleted gold mines
- highway routes to ghost towns
- reduced demand for land travel

3) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best definition for mode ?

- formula
- way
- preference
- option

4) According to the passage, the initial Iditarod race

- was funded through the sale of musher entrance fees
- was founded by an advocate for Alaskan history
- ended at the ghost town of Iditarod

D. boasted a total of 400 entrants

5) As used in paragraph 3, the phrase "self-made historian" implies that Dorothy G. Page

- was employed by the state to keep its dog sled history alive
- was determined to honor the glories of the gold rush in spite of her questionable credentials
- had pursued the study of Alaska's history out of her own interest
- had personally educated others about Alaska's history

6) In 1925, when a diphtheria outbreak threatened the lives of people in the remote town of Nome, the government used the Iditarod Trail to transport medicine nearly 700 miles to the town. If the author chose to include this fact in the passage, it would best fit in

- paragraph 1
- paragraph 2
- paragraph 3
- paragraph 5

7) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that because the U.S. Army reopened the Iditarod Trail in 1972,

- more people could compete in the Iditarod race
- the mushers had to get permission from the U.S. Army to hold the race
- the trail was cleared all the way to Nome
- the Iditarod race became a seasonal Army competition

1 Underline the correct phrase in each sentence.



- The price of petrol has risen/has been rising by 15% over the past year.
- No wonder you are overweight! You have eaten/You have been eating chocolates all day long!
- I've read/I've been reading a really good book this morning.
- Doesn't this room look better? I've put/I've been putting some posters up on the walls.
- Don't disappoint me! I've counted/I've been counting on you.
- Don't forget your pills today. Have you taken them/Have you been taking them?
- Who has worn/has been wearing my scarf?
- I think there's something wrong with your motorbike. It's made/It's been making some very funny noises.
- Jenny has asked/has been asking for a pay-rise three times this year.
- I've been phoning/I've phoned Ann all evening, but there's no reply.

2 Put each verb in brackets into either the past simple, present perfect simple or present perfect continuous.



I (1) ...moved. (move) to London three weeks ago to take up a new post at my company's London office. Ever since then, I (2) (wonder) if I (3) (make) the right decision. I (4) (see) a lot of negative things about living in the capital, and I can't say London (5) (make) a very favourable impression on me. It's so polluted and expensive, and the people are so distant. You see, I (6) (grow up) in a fairly small town called Devizes and I (7) (spend) all of my life there. I (8) (always/want) to live in a big city and so when my company (9) (offer) me a job in London, I (10) (jump) at the chance.

I think I'm not alone in my aversion to the big city. According to a programme I (11) (just/hear) on the radio, more and more people (12) (stop) working in London recently, and a lot of large companies (13) (choose) to move away from the centre. Oh well, it's too late to change my mind now, because the job is up and running, and I (14) (already/sell) my house in Devizes. But I must admit, over the past few days, I (15) (secretly/hope) that the company would relocate me back to my old town.



4 Match the expressions (a-j) with the explanations of when they might be said (1-10).

- Have you heard the one about ... ? ...4
- I haven't seen you for ages!
- I've had enough of this!
- Sorry, you've lost me!
- I've had a brainwave!
- It's been one of those days!
- I've had enough, thanks
- I haven't had a chance yet
- I've been having second thoughts
- Oh, haven't you heard?

- Saying you don't follow what someone is saying.
- Having doubts about a big decision.
- Having a brilliant idea.
- Introducing a joke.
- Declining more food.
- Spreading gossip.
- Seeing an old face from the past.
- Having a frustrating time, when everything is going wrong.
- Wanting to stop doing something because it's annoying you.
- Apologising for not doing something you said you'd do.

Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.



- It's a long time since/when I last saw you.
- I've seen Ruma quite often lately/from time to time.
- Have you spoken to the director beforehand/already?
- I've lived in the same house for years/for ever.
- I've read the paper now/still.
- Dina has bought a computer two years ago/since then.
- Nothing much has been happening by now/so far.
- I've finished reading her new book at last/this evening.
- Sue bought a CD player last week and she's been listening to music ever since/for a while.
- Sorry, but I haven't got that work finished already/yet.