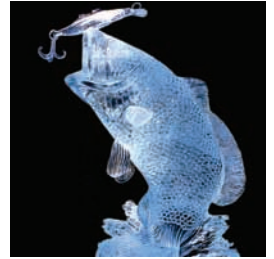
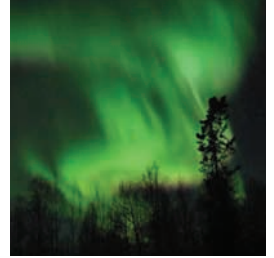


The Cold, Hard Facts | Living in Alaska | Sub-zero Winters & More!

Alaska Facts

- The Fairbanks North Star Borough has no official temperature cut-off, so school is RARELY cancelled because weather.
- Airplanes with piston engines are safe to fly until it's about 40 below; turbine-powered planes can fly to minus 60!
- If New York City had the same population density as Alaska, only 16 people would be living in Manhattan.
- Alaskans winterize their vehicles by installing block heaters which heat up the water in the block and circulate it through the engine. Oil pan heaters (which keep the oil fluid), transmission pans, power steering fluid heaters and battery blankets are also very common.
- Alaska is larger than the next four largest states, combined!
- More than half the world's active glaciers are in Alaska.
- There are over 3,000 rivers and 3 million lakes in Alaska.
- Alaska is less than 3 miles from Russia.



Alaskan Vocabulary

- State Motto - "North to the Future"
- Mukluks - seal skin or reindeer skin boots.
- Quiviut - wool from the Alaskan musk ox.
- Ulu - a fan shaped knife.
- Lower 48 - local reference to the continental U.S.
- The Bush - any part of Alaska inaccessible by road.
- Cheechako - a newbie to Alaska. Opposite of a Sourdough.
- Cache - small structure built on stilts to protect food from animals.
- Bunny Boots - heavy rubber boots to keep your feet warm and dry.
- Breakup - when the ice begins to melt and the rivers start to flow; the end of winter!
- Iditarod - held annually in March, the Iditarod is a 1000-mile dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome.
- Bush Pilot - a pilot who flies small airplanes (usually equipped with floats or skis) to places inaccessible by road!
- Outside - somewhere not in Alaska. Commonly used when talking about vacation plans: "I'm going outside!"
- Sourdough - anyone who has endured an Alaskan winter, or an old-time resident who is 'sour on the country, but without enough dough to get out.'

Alaskan Almanac

- Economy - driven by oil, logging, tourism, and fishing | Shoreline - 33,904 miles
- State Capital - Juneau | Purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million | Statehood - January 3, 1959
- Alaska is the 49th state | Area per person - .93 square miles for each resident | Tourism - ranks #2 in U.S.
- Mountains - 17 of the 20 highest peaks in North America are in Alaska. Mt. McKinley is the highest at 20,320 feet.
- State mineral - gold | State flower - Forget-Me-Not | State fish - Alaska King Salmon | State tree: Sitka Spruce
- Daylight hours - Barrow, Alaska the sun doesn't set for 84 days - during winter, there is no daylight for 64 days.
- Alaska State Flag: In 1926, a contest was held for Alaska student in grades 7-12. The winning design was by 13 year old Benny Benson. The Alaska flag features eight stars of gold on a field of blue.
- Earthquake - strongest recorded in North America took place on March 27th, 1964 (Good Friday) in South Central Alaska, measuring 9.2 on the Richter Scale.
- Largest Cabbage - 98 lbs. in 1990

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