



TEACHER PACKET

NORTHERN TRAIL



Ryan Hawk, WPZ



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Recommended for grades K–12

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Dear Teacher,

Alaska is the largest state in the union, making up 16.5% of the entire United States. Alaska also has the highest mountain in North America, the largest glacier and the longest volcano chain. Due to its size and unique topography, Alaska has a rich variety of habitats. From the taiga forest to the wet arctic coast, this diversity supports many plants and animals.

This packet has been designed to help you teach your students about the natural history of Alaska. Background information about the plants, animals and people of Alaska, as well as their adaptations to the cold has been included to assist you in planning a study unit with your students. Although this information was designed to increase your familiarity with the topic, you may choose to distribute some of the materials to older students.

The activities in this packet have been designed for use before, during and after a visit to Woodland Park Zoo for a self-guided visit or to participate in a program set in the zoo's Northern Trail bioclimatic zone. However, if you are unable to visit the zoo, the majority of the activities can also be covered in the classroom and/or outdoor settings apart from the zoo. The activities in this packet have been developed for use with different grade levels, to reach multiple disciplines and learning styles, and to tie in with Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements and Environmental and Sustainability Education standards.

Please see the Education section of the zoo's website (www.zoo.org) for more information or to register for a self-guided visit or a school program at the zoo.

We hope this packet will give you and your students a better understanding and admiration of the truly amazing landscape of Alaska!

Sincerely,

Woodland Park Zoo
Education Department

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