

# ALASKA -THE LAND OF ICE-





## Alaska

In Aleut language, which is spoken on volcanic Aleutian islands- politically divided between the Alaska and Russian Kamchatka Krai, Alaska means “The Great Land”. Alaska has a nickname “The Last frontier”.

Although its territory isn't physically connected to other states, Alaska was admitted as the 49<sup>th</sup> state of the U.S. in 1959 and actually it's the largest American State. Its capital is Juneau while some other cities are Fairbanks, Anchorage, Valdez, Talkeetna, etc.

Russia sold Alaska to the U.S. for \$7.2 million in 1867 believing the U.S. would off-set the designs of Russia's greatest rival in the Pacific, Great Britain.

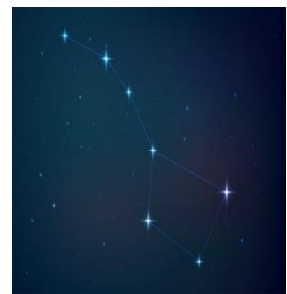
The 1968 discovery of oil and gas, and later gold and precious stones (1898) led to an economic boom and today's population is 736,556- population density is one person per square mile.



### ALASKAN FLAG

The blue field represents the sky, the sea, mountain lakes and the-forget-me-not flower. There are eight gold stars- seven from the “Big Dipper” which is the part of the constellation “Great Bear” (symbol of strength) while the eighth one- the North Star, represents the northernmost American state and its prosperous future – its motto is "North to the future".

The flag was designed by a 13-year-old Benny Benson.



## Interesting facts about Alaska

- > Alaska has more than 3 million lakes and 130 volcanoes (90 of them are active).
- > The Interior is the largest region of Alaska; much of it is uninhabited wilderness.
- > The climate of the interior of Alaska is subarctic.
- > In winter, the temperature can fall below  $-51^{\circ}\text{C}$  while the snow and ice stay on the ground almost the entire year. The lowest temperature recorded in Alaska was  $-62^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Prospect Creek Camp in 1971).
- > The state sport of Alaska is dog mushing (derived from the word "march"- this was in the past the only transportation method in Alaska-). The Sled Dog Race is the state's largest sporting event (March).
- > Almost 1/3 of Alaska's land is in the Arctic Circle.
- > The northern light can be seen in Alaska. The Aurora Borealis (northern light/ polar light or "the midnight sun"- sunset- that lasts forever) can be seen on average of 243 days a year in the city of Fairbanks.
- > The city of Anchorage is home to a unique place called Gravity Hill, where the laws of physics don't apply. A car in neutral at the bottom of the hill mysteriously rolls up instead of down!
- > Alaska is the only state that neither has nor collects state sales tax.
- > Seafood is a big business- the most famous exported fish is salmon-





*The Aurora Borealis (northern light/ polar light )*

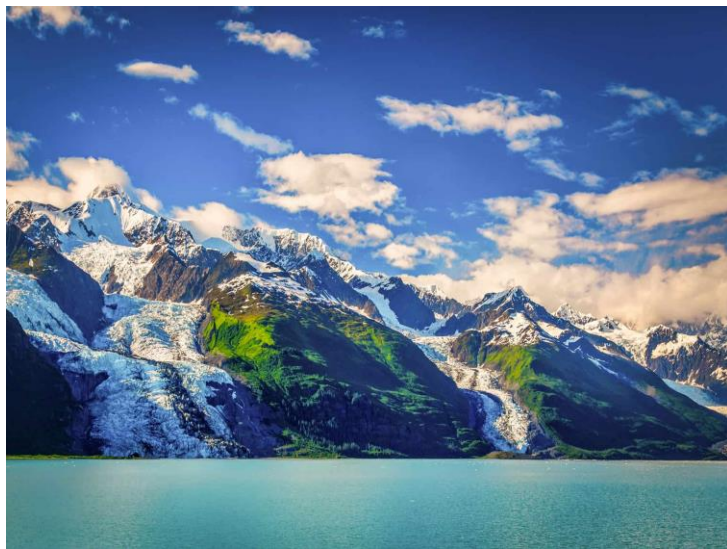


*The Dog Sled Race*





*Alaskan Red Salmon*



*Alaskan lakes and rivers*





"Ice Alaska" is the annual Ice Art and Competition event (February-March)

Located in the heart of Alaska, Fairbanks; The Tanana Valley Fairgrounds is home to the World Championships.

Each year, the finest sculptors from around the world compete in the most challenging prestigious ice sculpting competition.



2022 Thunderstruck by Steve Brice, Steve Dean, Chris Foltz, Steve Smith



© Patrick J. Endres / AlaskaPhotoGraphics.com



"The Alaska-Valdez Ice Climbing Festival" (February) is a bucket list event for every ice climber.

Ice Climbing on Glaciers is a real challenge- the combination of heavy glaciation, arctic weather, and high-altitude mountaineering.





"The Talkeetna Trio Bike World Championship" is a bike race in the cool mountain town of Talkeetna.

The bike race runs through the surrounding forests, along the river, and through downtown Talkeetna.

Celebrations and parties surround the event.





## Idioms with "ice"

### 1. Skate on thin Ice

= to choose a risky or a dangerous way

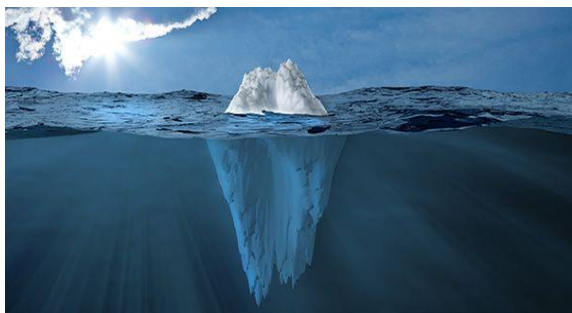


He's skating on thin ice by lying to the police.



### 2. Only the tip of the iceberg

= something is only a small part of a much bigger situation. This idiom comes from the fact that only the tip of an iceberg can be seen and the rest of the iceberg, which is much larger, is underneath the water and cannot be seen.



These small local protests are only the tip of the iceberg.

### 3. Ice-calm

= extremely calm



He was ice-calm, perfectly in control of himself.

**4. Break the ice** = to start the conversation / overcome social difficulties in a friendly manner



I tried to break the ice by talking to the people next to me about the weather.

**5. Cold as ice** = very cold



Feel my toes - they're as cold as ice.

**6. Sell ice to Eskimos** = to persuade people to buy something they don't need

He's such a smooth talker, he could sell ice to Eskimos.



**7. Ice queen** = a beautiful but cold and heartless woman



I don't know how Tom can go out with an ice queen like Mary.



A modern glass igloos-resorts-

A traditional snow hut-an igloo-for Native Alaskans -Inuits /Eskimos/



# Painting Aurora Borealis with tempera paints and ice cubes



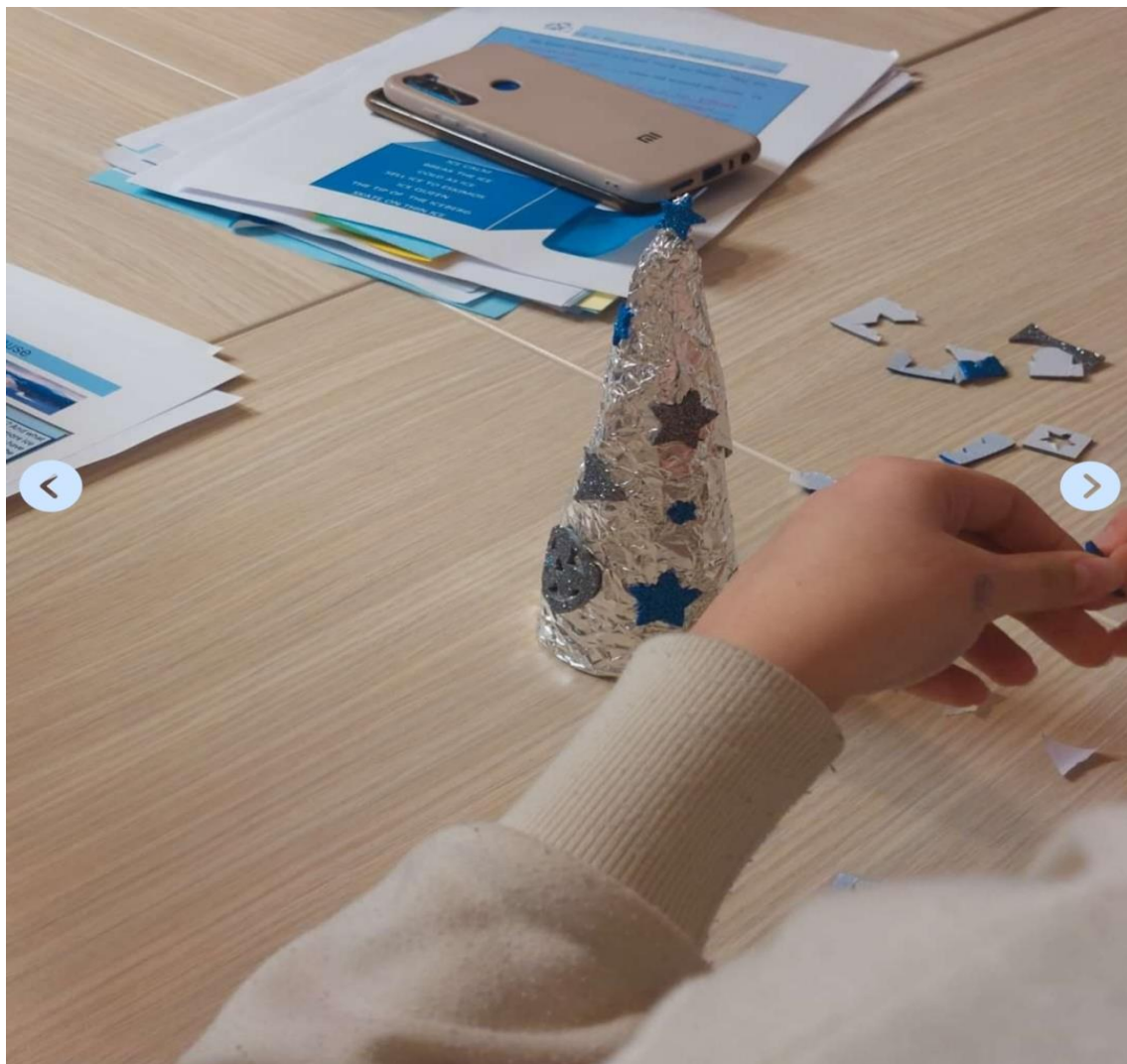




# Icy treats



## „Ice sculpture“

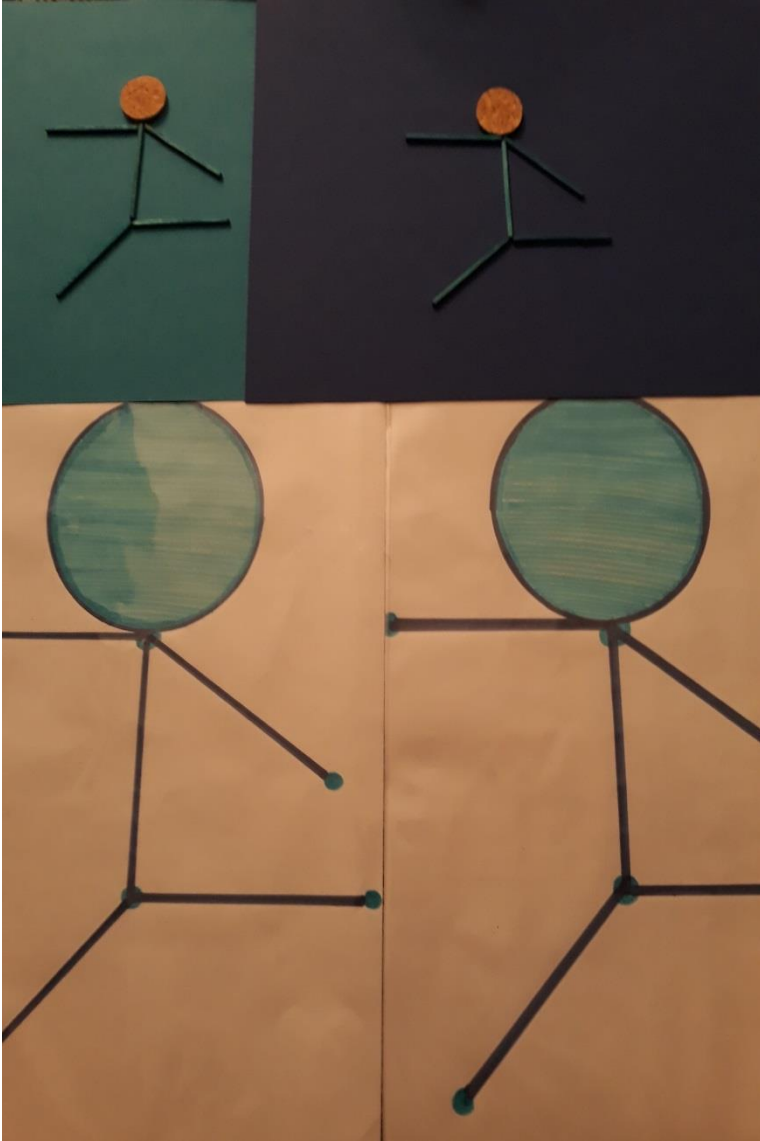


## Edutainment in action





„If I were an Inuit boy / girl, I would...”



„Kindness matters“



thank  
you