



"Which Way to Nome?" is an activity in mapping skills. To answer the questions below you will need refer to the Iditarod Trail map to the left, for a detailed breakdown of the race.

First, you will need the compass directions of the map.

- The top center of the map is north.
- The bottom center of the map is south.
- The center of the left side of the map is west.
- The center of the right side of the map is east.
- The top left-hand corner is northwest.
- The bottom left-hand corner is southwest.
- The top right-hand corner is northeast.
- The bottom right-hand corner is southwest.

Make sense? Good. Now answer these questions based on the map:

---

## The Assignment

1. What direction is Nome from Anchorage "as the crow flies?" ("As the crow flies" is an expression that means in a straight line from point to point)
2. The journey from Takotna to Cripple will take you through what checkpoint?
3. The journey from Kaltag to Unalakleet will take you in which direction?
4. Although the journey from Anchorage to Nome is mostly northwest, there are some parts of the trail that will take a musher northeast. Between which checkpoints on the trail will the mushers head northeast?
5. As you check in at Skwentna, Mt. McKinley is about 50 miles due north of where you are. You then travel the 45 miles to Finger Lake. As you check in at Finger Lake, Mt. McKinley will be in which direction?
6. According to the map, which checkpoint is farthest east?
7. Which consecutive checkpoints appear to be the farthest from each other?
8. Which consecutive checkpoints appear to be closest to each other?

9. Something to think about: How could a compass and a map save a life in the Alaskan wilderness?

This lesson plan was prepared by New York Middle School teacher Terry Burton.