



2024 Educational Materials

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This Unit is designed to teach students about the Pedigree Stage Stop Race through Reading and Writing Activities . Students will engage in various activities such as biography reading and writing, following and charting a musher on the trail, mapping the trail, comparing and contrasting the weather with their hometown, poetry writing, and informative and opinion text writing. Each activity has instructions.

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ELA Common Core State Standards:

2nd Grade

Fact Cards, Reading Texts

RL2.1: Ask and answer such questions as *who, what, where, when, why* and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

RF2.3: (a-f) Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

RF2.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

Cinquain Poetry Writing, Writing, and Writing Prompts:

W2.1: Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion using linking words(e.g. because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement.

W2.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points and provide a concluding statement or section.

W2.5: With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.

L.2.1:a-f: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking.

L.2.2:a-e: Demonstrate command of conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Picture/Fact Cards Match

RI2.4:Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to grade 2 topic or subject area.

RF2.4a: Read on-level text with purpose and understanding.

2nd Grade Common Core Math Standards:

Graphing Alaska Temperatures and Hometown Temperatures:

2MD.10: Draw a picture graph and a bar graph

(with single unit scale) to represent a data set with up to 4 categories.

Solve simple put-together, take apart, and compare problems using information presented in a bar graph.

ELA Common Core State Standards:

3rd Grade

Fact Cards, Reading Texts,

RL3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL3.2: Determine the main idea of the text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

RF3.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

Cinquain Poetry Writing, Writing, and Writing Prompts

W3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view.

- a. Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organization structure that lists reasons.
- b. provide reasons to support the opinion.
- c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g. because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.
- d. Provide a concluding statement or section.

W3.2: Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine a topic and conveys ideas and information clearly.

- a. Introduce a topic and group related information together include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
- b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.

W3.5: With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.

W3.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

L3.1:a-i: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar when writing and speaking.

L3.2:a-g: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

L3.3: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

- a. Choose words and phrases for effect.

Common Core Standards Math – Grade 3

Represent and interpret data.

3.MD.B 3 Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step “how many more” and “how many less” problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs.

Word Wall Words

Introduce the new words at the beginning of the lesson. These are words that students will need to know during the unit.

Picture/Fact Cards for Reading:

The picture/fact cards give information about the picture. Students can practice reading them before they read the text about the Iditarod. They can be put in a center or make sets for independent reading. Students will need to read these before matching the picture/fact cards.

Materials:

- Make copies of the Word Wall Words (page 7-9)
- Laminate and display in your classroom.
- Make copies of the Picture/Fact Reading Cards: (pages 10-12)
- Laminate, cut, and place sets in labeled plastic bags or envelopes.

Picture/Word or Picture/Fact Cards Match

These can be used at the beginning of the unit to help students learn the new vocabulary as a matching activity. They are best to use after students have read the Picture/Fact Cards: (pages). The Picture/Word cards will help your ESL students and struggling readers. For other students you can have them match the Picture/Fact Cards.

Materials:

- Make copies of the Picture/Word Cards: (pages 13-16)
- Make copies of the Picture/Fact Cards: (pages 17-20)
- Make a copy of the Center Activity Task Card: (Page 21)
- Laminate the sets you are using, cut, and place in plastic labeled bags or envelopes.



Alaskan husky



yellow bib



trail



booties



musher



dog sled



chute



runners



**gangline
and
harness**



staging area



**dog in a
basket**



pedaling



An Alaskan Husky is a large dog with thick fur used to pull dog sleds.



The yellow bib is given to the musher with the fastest time of the day.



The trail is the path that the racers must follow to the finish line of each stage.



Booties are rubber, plastic, or fabric covering for dogs' paws, used to protect the animal from cold weather, small cuts, or sores.



A musher is the driver of the dog sled in a dog sled race. Mushing is a sport or method of transportation powered by dogs.



A dog sled is a sled pulled by one or more sled dogs used to travel over ice or snow.



The chute is the beginning of the race course at the starting line.



The runners are the two bottom pieces of the sled that come in contact with the snow.



The gangline and harness are the collection of lines to which dogs are attached.



The staging area is where the mushers and dog ready themselves for the upcoming race.



Dog in basket is when a dog an injured or tired do is carried safely on the sled.



Pedaling is pushing the sled with one foot while the other foot remains on the runner.



Alaskan husky



yellow bib



trail



booties



musher



dog sled



chute



runners



gangline and
harness



staging area



dog in a
basket

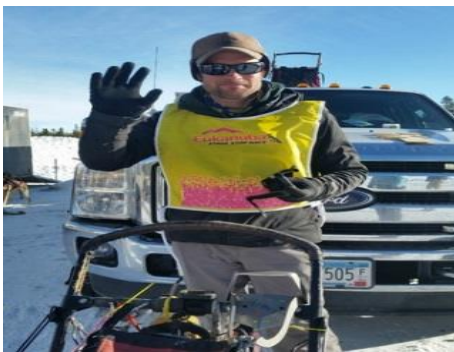


pedaling



Alaskan husky

This is a large dog with thick fur used to pull dog sleds.



yellow bib

This is given to the musher with the fastest time of the day.



trail

This is the path that the racers must follow to the finish line of each stage.



booties

These are rubber, plastic, or fabric covering for dogs' paws, used to protect the animal from cold weather, small cuts, or sores.



musher

This person is the driver of the dog sled in a dog sled race. Mushing is a sport or method of transportation powered by dogs.



dog sled

This is a sled pulled by one or more sled dogs used to travel over ice or snow.



chute

This is the beginning of the race course at the starting line.



runners

These are the two bottom pieces of the sled that come in contact with the snow.



gangline and harness

These are the collection of lines to which dogs are attached.



staging area

This is where the mushers and dog ready themselves for the upcoming race.



dog in a basket

When a dog an injured or tired this is used to carry it safely on the sled.

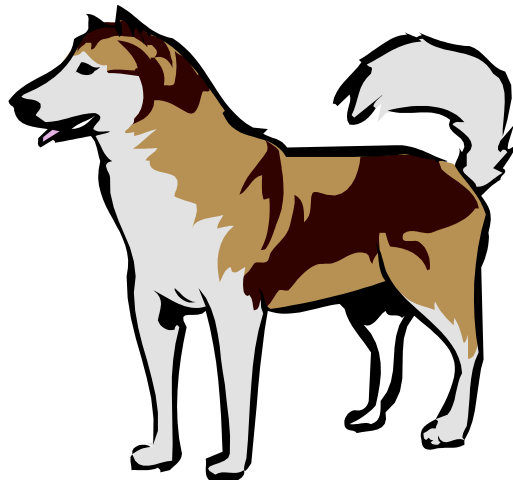


pedaling

This is pushing the sled with one foot while the other foot remains on the runner.

Picture/Word/Fact Card Match

1. Put all the cards face up on the table.
2. Match each picture with the correct word or fact.



Racers' Bios:

There are 25 Racers' Bios included in this packet. Each bio was submitted by the racer. There are several different activity you can do:

- You can give out individual bios to individual or pairs of students. Each individual or pair can report on their racer before the race. They can make a poster about their racer including a map if where they are from or other pertinent info.
- Then you can make a class book of all the bios so students can read during literacy or reading time.
- You can make a shared reading book and read different bios on days leading up to the race.

Materials:

- Make copies of the bios: (pages 23-36)
- Laminate and cut

Activities for the Bios:

Introduce the Character Traits Information Chart. Brainstorm traits the students think fit a sled dog race or musher. Students can fill in the graphic organizer. Then they can find proof to support that character trait.

Adjective Web:

Students will write 5 adjectives that describe a sled dog racer.

Materials:

- Make a copy of the Character Traits Information Chart: (page 37)
- Make copies of the Character Traits Graphic Organizer: (page 38)
- Make a copy of the Adjectives Information Chart: (page 39)
- Make copies of the Adjective Word Web: (page 40)

#1 —Tim Thiessen from Leadville, Colorado .Age 40.

Tim has run the Stage Stop every year since 2019. His passion for dog sledding began in 2003 when he began working for a Breckenridge, Colorado dog sled tour company. He soon began competing in the local Colorado race circuit with his own team. Tim and his partner, Natalie, share their high-altitude homestead in the Mosquito Range of central Colorado with dogs, cats, ducks, chickens, and some geese. “Every year presents new challenges, and I’m excited to, once again, to compete in this esteemed event!”



#2 —Michael Tetzner from Burg, Germany. Age 58.

Michael's homebase is a farm in Burg, in Schleswig-Holstein, northern Germany where he has a 60-dog kennel. He began mushing in 1987 after watching a sled dog race in Germany, then started running Siberian Huskies and he's been racing dogs all over the world since. Michael placed third overall in the 2023 Fur Rondy Open World Championships and got an award for the best dog care. His daughter Leonie (age 13) will be his handler. "Running the Stage Stop had been my dream for many years, so I look forward to running again this year."



#3- Austin Forney from Leadville, Colorado. Age 42.

Austin comes from a sixth-generation line of cattle ranchers in the Sandhills of western Nebraska. In 2006, Austin switched from cattle & horses to sled dogs and has been chasing his mushing dreams ever since. He currently lives and trains at elevation 10,152 ft. in Leadville, Colorado. Austin says that he and his veteran handlers, Rich and Ben, are “excited to spend another year in Wyoming with all of the amazing people and dogs of the Pedigree Stage Stop Race.” He also wants to send a huge thanks to all his family and friends for their continued love and support. This is Austin’s ninth consecutive year competing at the Stage Stop Race. “See you in Jackson!”



#4-Dennis LaBoda from Grand Marais, Minnesota. Age 65.

Sled dogs were a neighborhood activity when Dennis was growing up in Minnesota. His older brother, Dale, started mushing as a teenager, and raced the IPSSDR in the early years of our event. Following his brother's "footsteps in the snow" Dennis started mushing as a teenager, and in 1973 won the Minnesota State Championship 5-dog class with dogs supplied by Chuck Gould. He's won many races in North and South America and has been a race official in Europe. Mushing is a family activity. He and his son, Charlie, train, and race Nightrain Racing Sled Dogs.



#5-Remy Coste from France. Age 45.

Previously a baker in France at Meilleur Ouvrier de France, Remy says “so I’m one of the best bakers in France.” He began racing dogs in 2012 with partner Aurelie Delattre, also a musher. They lived in Sweden for seven years training dogs for several European mid-distance races. This mushing couple then decided they wanted to see the “really famous” North American races. Please welcome them to their first Stage Stop competition. “We are super happy to be here for the season and hope to meet a lot of new people.”



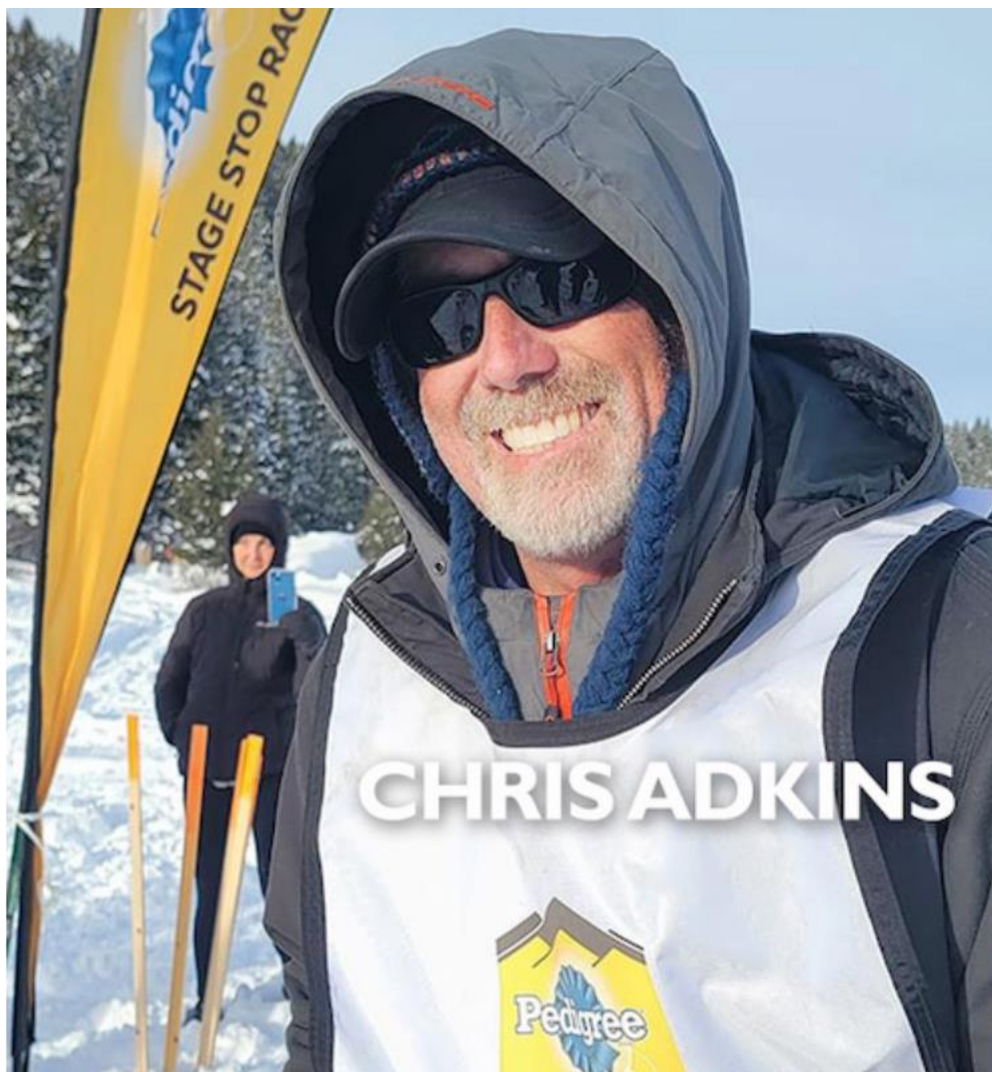
#6-Linda Pierce from Okanogan, Washington. Age 65.

Linda has been running dogs since 2011. She operates a small kennel in Okanogan, Washington that is comprised of Alaskan huskies, hound, and hound-cross dogs. Linda began competing in the Stage Stop when the race offered an 8-dog class and became “hooked” on the family atmosphere, professional organization, and beauty of the race locations. “2024 looks to be an exciting year given the age of the team. I’m looking forward to reconnecting with friends and the welcoming communities of the Stage Stop.”



#7-Chris Adkins from Sand Coulee, Montana. Age 55.

Chris states that he's a "lumberyard dispatcher/cat herder" in his online application. He grew up running dogs, and attempted his first distance race, the Race To The Sky 500, at 21. He entered the Stage Stop Race in 2010 as a training run for the Iditarod and fell in love with the trails of Wyoming. Chris and his wife Shannon, with the help of the kids, operate Mo Betta Sled Dog Racing, a 50-plus dog kennel in Sand Coulee, Montana. This will be Chris' tenth Stage Stop. "Apparently, I just can't get enough of it!"



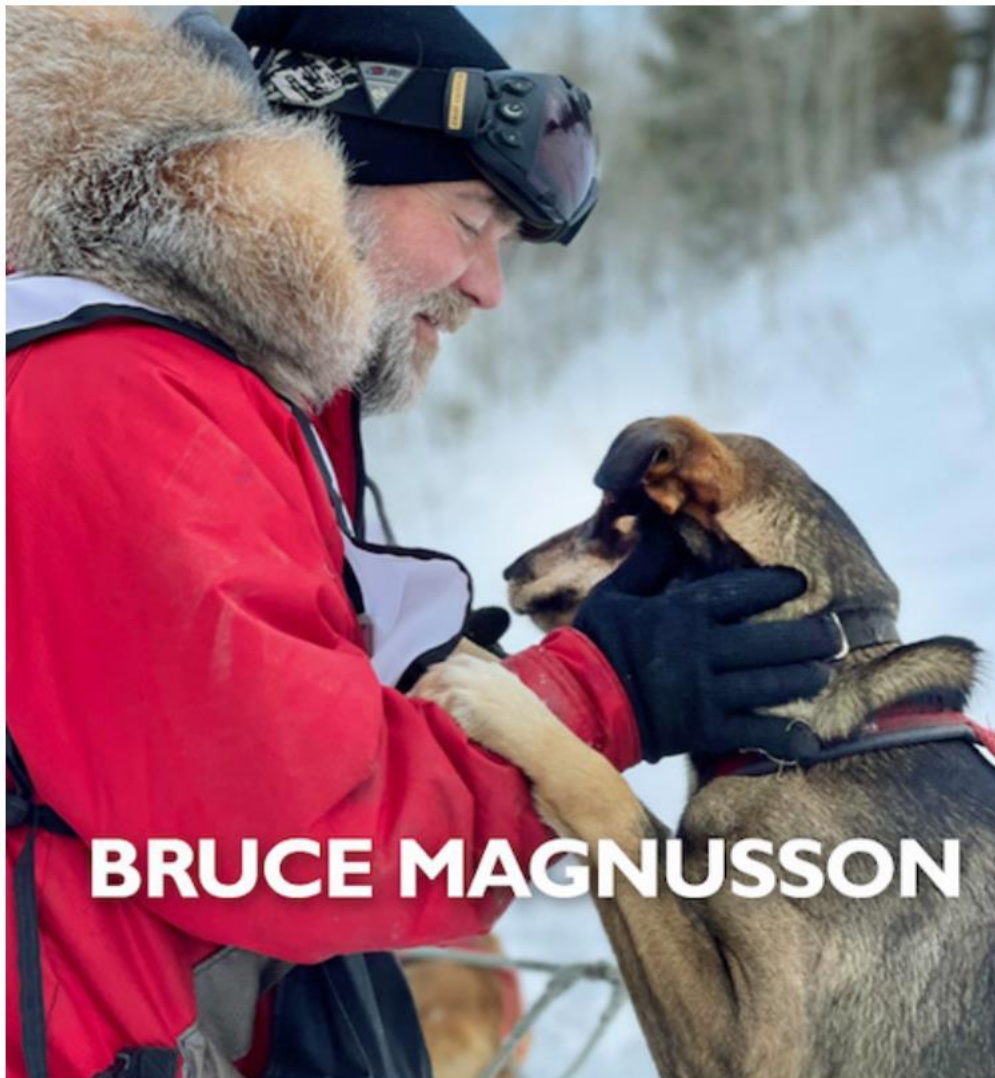
#8-Donny Poulin from The Pas, Manitoba, Canada. Age 49.

This is Donny's second time running the Stage Stop. He was born into the sport — both his father and mother come from mushing backgrounds, He began mushing when he was four years old. His father, Brian, started running dogs in the early 70s, his mother, Jackie, grew up with sled dogs; the 6-dog race in The Pas is named after her father, Jack McPhail. Donny has raced in The Pas World Championship 29 times and the Harold McLeod championship in Cross Lake more than 20 times. "We raced Wyoming last winter and loved it so much we decided to come back and try it again."



#9-Bruce Magnusson from Newberry, Michigan. Age 60.

Even though an injury kept him from competition last year, Bruce Mangusson holds the record for the most consecutive years of running the Stage Stop Race — an impressive 18!! In our 29-year history, no one has run more than Bruce. In his twenty-first year of racing, Bruce lives and trains in Newberry, in Michigan's upper peninsula. "The Stage Stop is always the primary focus of our race season, and I can't imagine not being part of this race and the Stage Stop family," he says.



#10-Alix Crittenden from Bondurant, Wyoming. Age 36.

Alix has been racing dogs for the last 10 years. She resides in Bondurant with her husband Sam where they enjoy horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. Alix loves the Stage Stop and looks forward to being with her stage stop family every year. Alix placed second overall in last year's Pedigree Stage Stop Race. "Racing in my home state on the amazing backcountry winter trail system is so special to me. I wish everyone a great race and a great time!"



#11 — Anny Malo from St-Zenon, Quebec, Canada.

Age 53.

Anny started mushing in 1995 when she met Marco. It was clear from the start that the woman of his life would have to share his passion. And she did!!! Quickly, they decided to get into the sport seriously. In 1998 they handled at Joe and Pam Redington's Iditarod Kennel for eight months. After that, they started traveling with their family and the dogs. Anny holds the record for a single musher with the most consecutive Stage Stop championships totaling five 1st place finishes from 2019 through 2023. "Our goal is to get better each year," says the returning champion.



#12-Sarah Tarlton from Mountain, Wisconsin. Age 44.

Sarah Tarlton is a jack of all trades but a master of none. She started handling dogs in 2015 with Ryan Beaber and his daughters, then started racing in 2019. She loves learning everything she can about taking care of her dogs and giving them the best she can to show their true athletic potential especially in such a top notch racing circuit with so many incredible other mushers. “I wouldn’t be where I am without her biggest supporter and pusher to keep going, Ryan Beaber.” Sarah placed ninth overall in last year’s Pedigree Stage Stop Race. “I’m looking forward to this year’s Stage Stop.”



#13-Cathy Rivest from St-Paul-de-Joliette, Quebec, Canada. Age 46

Cathy began sledding as a twelve-year-old helping to run the family sled dog tour business. Business quickly turned into competition — competitive sled dog racing. Cathy has raced sprint class, 4-dog and 6-dogs, and dryland. She's been an active part of Quebec's Provincial Federation the past ten years. Cathy has worked as a prosthetist with amputees for the past 25 years. She says that her favorite sprint race is Laconia, New Hampshire. "I'm so thankful to race the 2024 Pedigree Stage Stop with my brother Marco Rivest's team. This stage race is a 'must do' of a lifetime".



#14-Rachel Courtney from Caliento, Manitoba, Canada. Age 31.

Rachel Courtney is a dog trainer who began mushing in 2002 with her pet Siberian Husky, Cindy. In 2010, she traveled to Canada to learn more about mushing and fell in love with the sport and lifestyle, then started her own kennel three years later. Rachel now has a kennel of 28 dogs and a daughter who is starting to learn to run dogs, following in her mom's "footsteps in the snow." "This year I have joined kennel with Nate Metzen and we are very excited to return to the Pedigree Stage Stop as it is one of my favorite races."



Character Traits Information Chart

1. Character traits are descriptive adjectives that tell us more about a character.
2. They are like the words we would use to describe ourselves but we use them to describe characters in a book or text we are reading.
3. The character can be fictional or real.
4. We might infer a character trait by something the character does.
5. Character traits can be positive or negative.

Positive Traits

honest
brave
hard-working

Negative Traits

bossy
annoying
lazy

Name _____

Character Traits of _____

Trait

Proof

--	--	--

--	--	--

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe **nouns**:
a person, a place, a thing.

Adjectives answer the following questions:

how many?

which one?

what kind of?

Adjectives make our writing more interesting!

Name _____

Write 6 adjectives that describe a sled dog racer.

Sled Dog
Racer

Activities:

Here are some fun activities your students can do during the Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race.

- Pick a musher and keep a daily log of their location and interesting information such as problems, weather conditions, number of miles traveled, number of dogs, etc.
- Map the sled dog race through Wyoming using the map. Students can map all the stage stops in Wyoming and label them.
- Map the whole Pedigree Stage Stop Race on the Rocky Mountains States Map and label the states and all the stage stops.
- Comparing Weather: Graph the high or low temperatures each day for a city on the trail and the student's hometown.

Musher Log and Map

In this activity, students will pick a musher to follow on the trail. Each day, students will record the date, location, and important information about their musher. Important information might be about losing a dog, problems, weather conditions etc. You will need to make at least 2 copies of the log for each student or double side the log on one page. Then, students will map out the trail daily and put cities and checkpoints if possible.

Materials:

- Make copies of the Musher Log (page 42)
- Make copies of the Wyoming Map (page 43)
- Make copies of the Rocky Mountain Region Map (page 44)
- Compare Weather Chart (page 45)

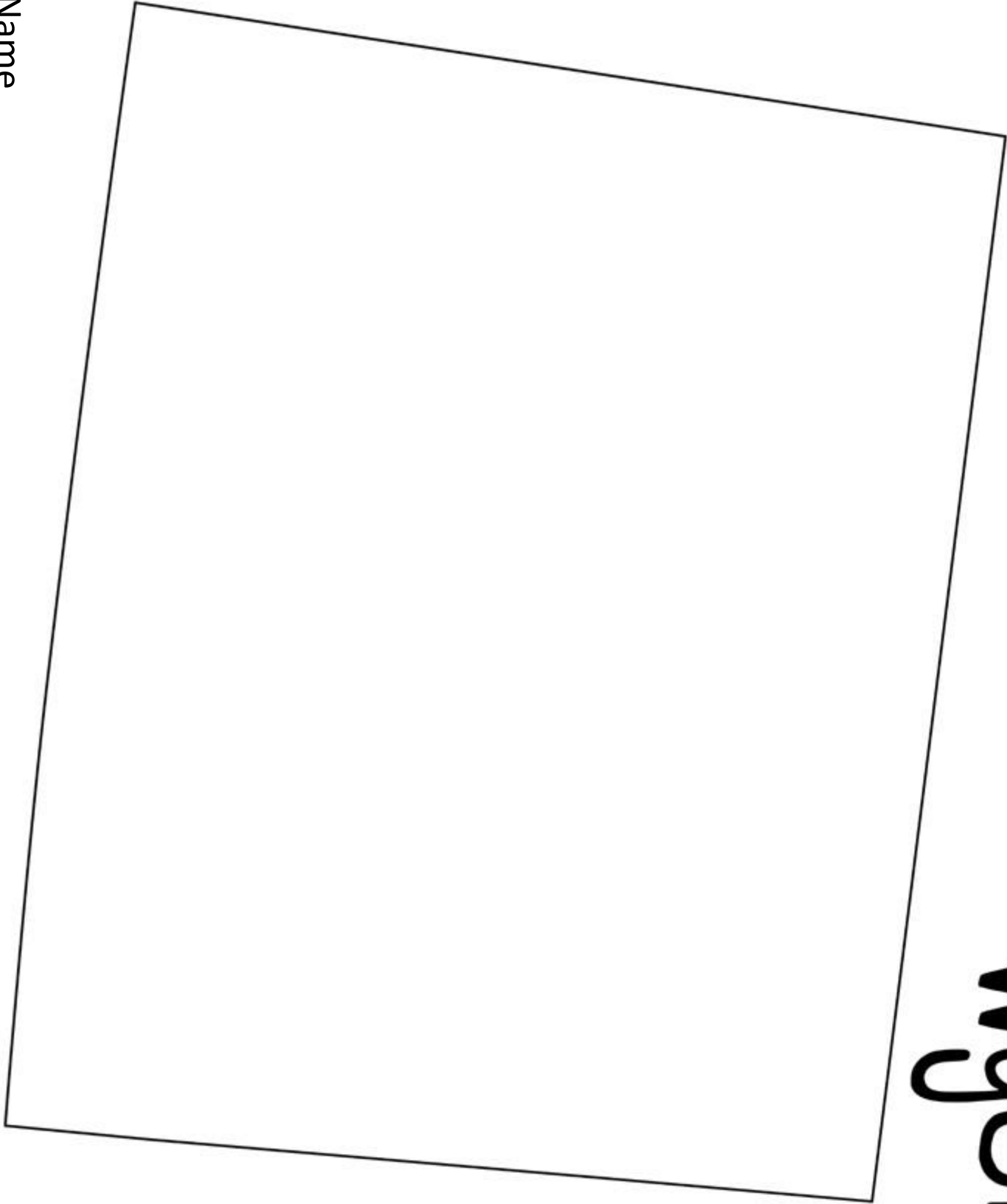
Name_____

Your Musher's Log_____

Day	Location	Important Information
		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

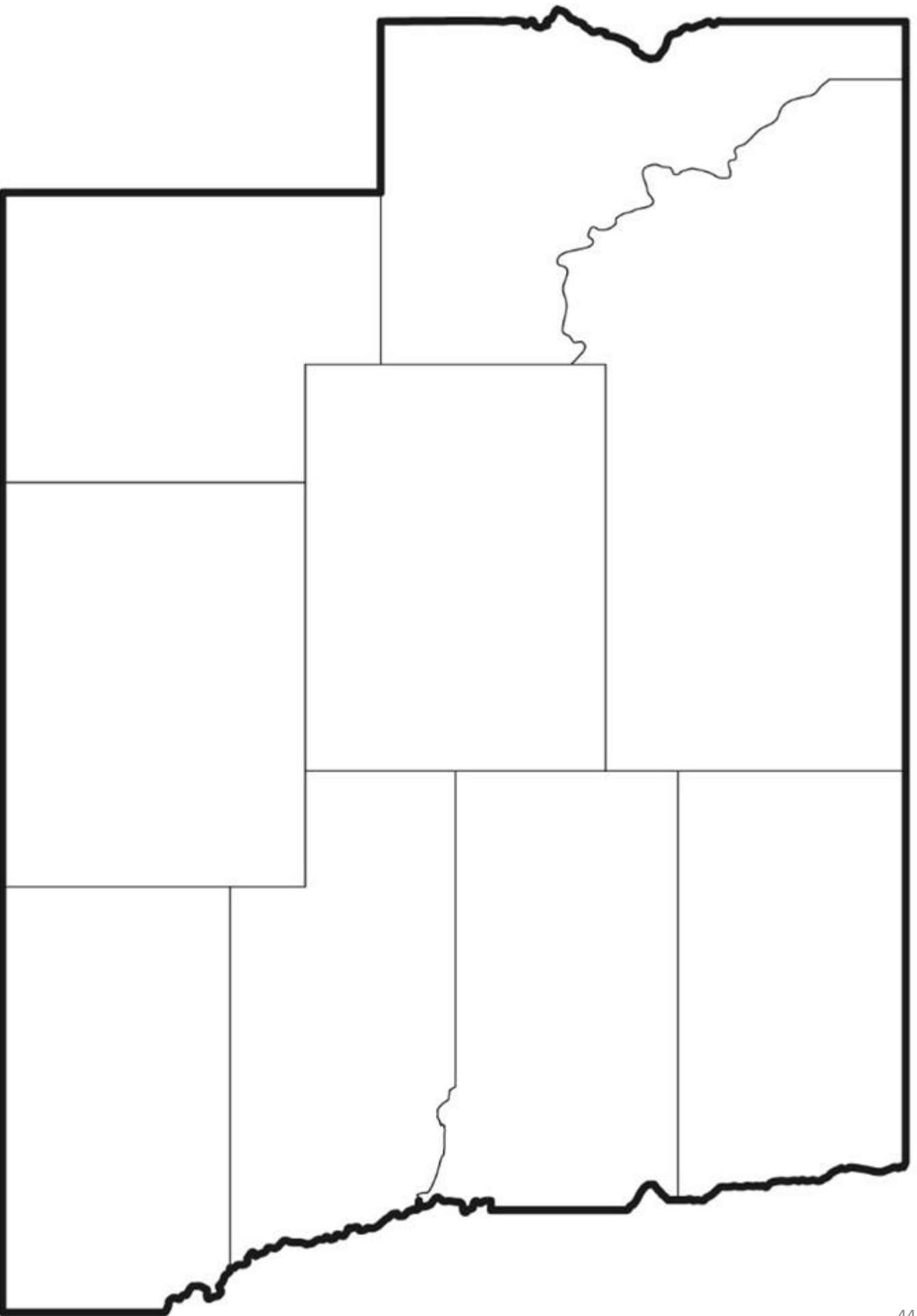
Draw the trail through Wyoming and label each stage stop.

Wyoming



Name _____

Draw the trail of the Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race and label each state.



Name _____

Name _____ Hometown _____

Temperature Data Recording Sheet _____

[illegible]

Activities:

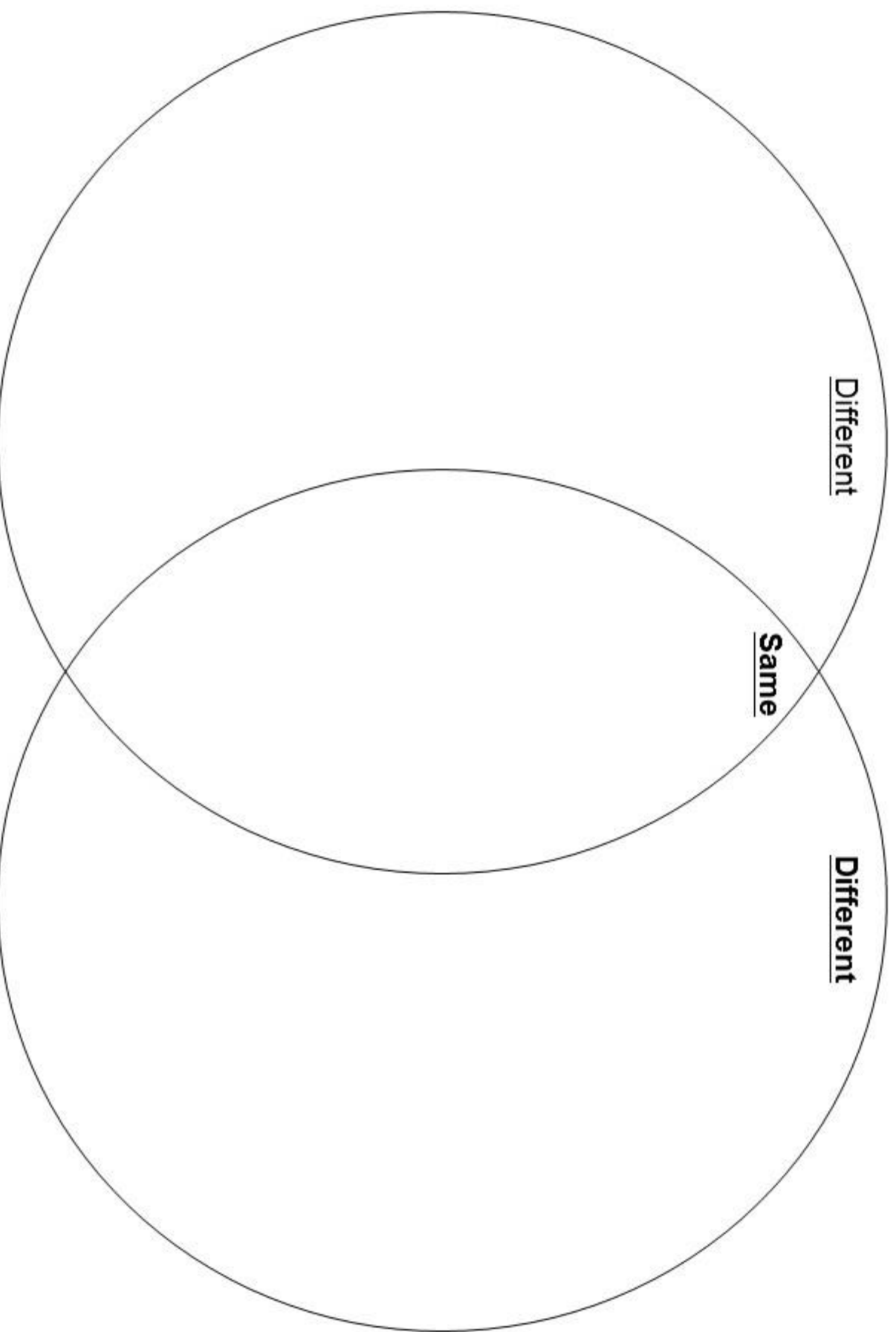
- Compare and Contrast 2 mushers.
- Compare and Contrast the Pedigree Stage Stop Race to the Iditarod. Students will need to do some research.
- Wrapping it Up

Materials:

- Make copies of the Venn Diagrams (pages 47 or 48, 49 or 50)
- Make copies of the Wrapping it Up Activity: (page 51)

Name _____

Compare and Contrast : 2 Mushers



Musher _____

Musher _____

Name _____

Compare and Contrast : 2 Mushers

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Musher _____' and the right circle is labeled 'Musher _____'. The overlapping area in the center is labeled 'Same'. The non-overlapping area of the left circle is labeled 'Different' and the non-overlapping area of the right circle is labeled 'Different'. Each of the three regions (left, center, right) contains five horizontal lines for writing.

Different

Same

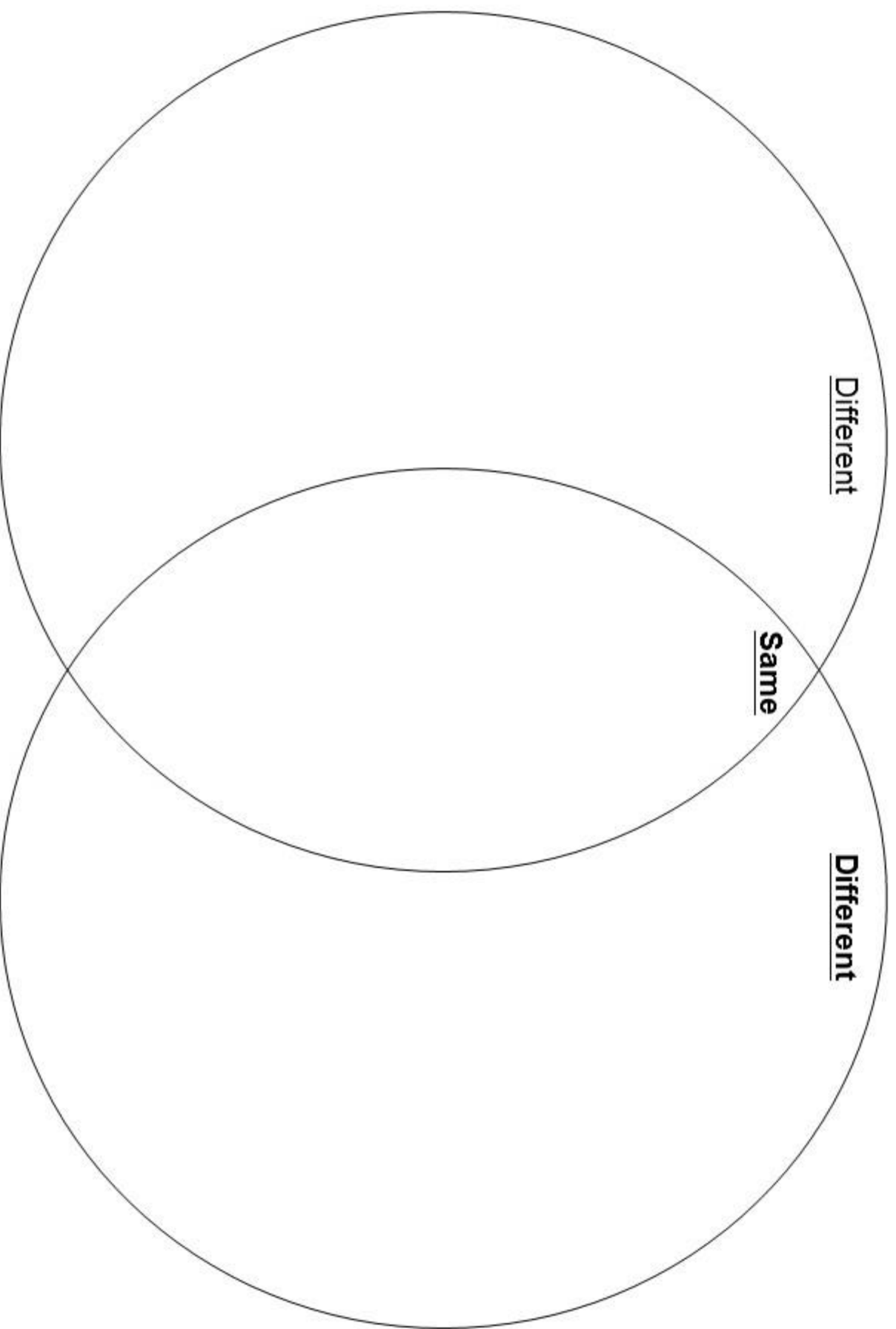
Different

Musher _____

Musher _____

Name _____

Compare and Contrast : The Pedigree Stage Stop Race and the Iditarod



Pedigree Stage Stop Race

Iditarod

Name _____

Compare and Contrast : The Pedigree Stage Stop Race and the Iditarod

A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Pedigree Stage Stop Race' and the right circle is labeled 'Iditarod'. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'Same'. The non-overlapping part of the left circle is labeled 'Different', and the non-overlapping part of the right circle is also labeled 'Different'. Each of these three sections contains five horizontal lines for writing.

Pedigree Stage Stop Race

Iditarod

Name _____

Wrapping it Up

Who won the Race?

What was the winning time?

How many mushers started
the race?

How many mushers finished
the race?

“Wyoming” Cinquain and Writing an “Stage Stop Sled Dog Race” Cinquain.
This is a wonderful website for learning about Cinquains and writing them.
<http://www.poetry4kids.com/blog/lessons/how-to-write-a-cinquain-poem/>

I have included the Cinquain writing form. After reading the Wyoming Cinquain, to your students hand it out. Go over the form of the Cinquain. Then brainstorm things about the Sled dog Race that students could write about.

Examples: racing, cold, lonely, dark, icy etc.

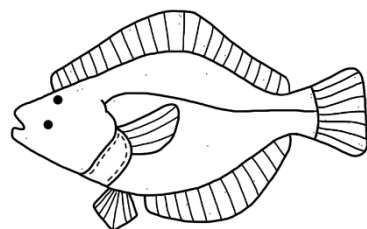
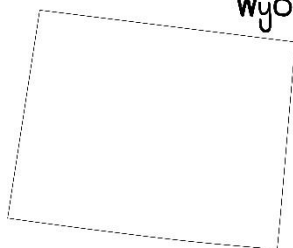
After writing them, students can share theirs with the class. This may be difficult for some younger students but you can try to do it as a whole group. These would make a great Bulletin Board Display. You can also make a class poetry book with the cover I have included.

Materials:

- Make copies of the “Wyoming” Cinquain: (page 53)
- Make a copy of the Cinquain writing form: (page 54)
- Make copies of the Cinquain Writing Activity: (page 55)
- Make a copy of the Class Poetry Book Cover: (page 56)

Name _____

Wyoming



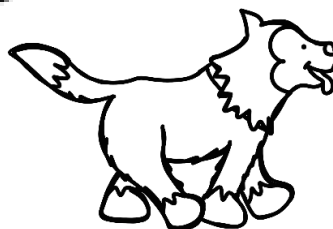
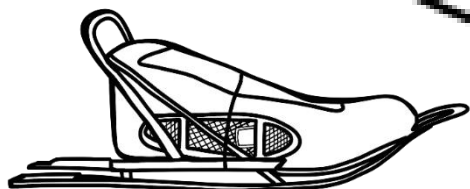
Wyoming

Cold, Windy, Snowy

Mushing, Fishing, Snowing

Land of the Rocky
Mountains

Untamed



Writing a Cinquain

Line 1 - a one word title (or 2 syllables)

Line 2- 2 words that describe your title (or 4 syllables)

Line 3 - 3 words (verbs) that express action (or 6 syllables)

Line 4- 4 words that express feeling (or 8 syllables)

Line 5- One word that refers back to the title. (or 2 syllables)

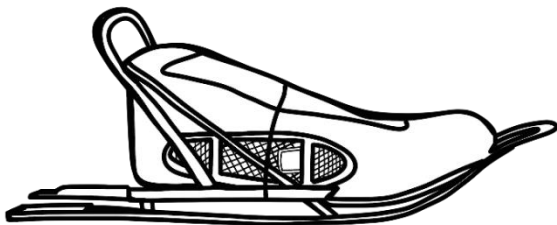


Name _____



Wyoming

Our Class Poetry Book: "Pedigree Stage Stop Race"



Writing Prompts

There are 4 writing prompts to choose from depending on the writing abilities of your students. There is an Informative Text Information Chart and Writing Graphic Organizers and an Opinion Piece Writing Information Chart and Writing Graphic Organizers. You can choose the ones that meet the needs of your students.

Materials for both 2nd and 3rd Grade:

- Make a copy of the Informative Text Information Chart (page 58)
- Make a copy of the Opinion Piece Information Chart (page 59-60)

Materials:

2nd Grade Graphic Organizers:

- Make copies of the Information Text Writing Graphic Organizer (page 63)
- Make copies of the Opinion Piece Writing Graphic Organizer (page 66)

3rd Grade Graphic Organizers

- Make copies of the Information Writing Graphic Organizer (page 61)
- Make copies of the Opinion Piece Writing Graphic Organizer (page 62 & 63)

Writing Prompts:

- Make copies of the writing prompts and laminate: (pages 64 & 65)
- Make copies of student writing papers (optional): (page 66 & 67)

Informative/Explanatory Text Writing

- Begin with a topic sentence.
The topic sentence is the main idea of the paragraph.
- Add Facts and Details to tell more about the main idea.
- End your paragraph with a concluding sentence which restates the main idea.

Name _____

Informative Text Writing Graphic Organizer

Topic Sentence	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Important Fact	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Important Detail	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Important Fact or Detail	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Concluding Sentence	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Name _____

Topic Sentence	<hr/> <hr/>
Important Fact	<hr/> <hr/>
Important Detail	<hr/> <hr/>
Another Important Fact	<hr/> <hr/>
Another important Detail	<hr/> <hr/>
Concluding Sentence	<hr/> <hr/>

Opinion Piece Writing

- Begin by stating your opinion.

Examples: You can begin with
I believe, I think, I feel

- Give reasons why you feel that way.

- Give examples to support your reasons.

- Add a concluding sentence which restates your opinion.

Name _____

Opinion Piece Writing Graphic Organizer

State your opinion.	<hr/> <hr/>
Reason	<hr/> <hr/>
Example	<hr/> <hr/>
Another reason or example	<hr/> <hr/>
Concluding Sentence	<hr/> <hr/>

Name _____

State your Opinion.	<hr/> <hr/>
Reason	<hr/> <hr/>
Example	<hr/> <hr/>
Another Reason	<hr/> <hr/>
Example	<hr/> <hr/>
Concluding Sentence: Restate your opinion	<hr/> <hr/>

Writing Prompt

Describe the Pedigree Stage
Stop Race.

Give facts and details.

Check your spelling,
punctuation, and capitalization.

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Writing Prompt

Imagine you are chosen to ride the
first stage of the Pedigree Stage
Stop Race. Describe the weather,
crowd watching, and the trail ride.

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Writing Prompt

Imagine that you are a reporter interviewing a musher in the race.

What questions would you ask and why?

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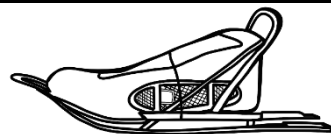
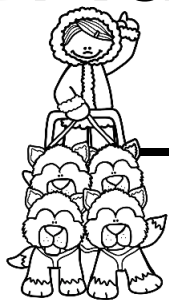
Writing Prompt

Pick a town along the Wyoming Trail.

Find information about the town.
Write a paragraph describing the town.

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Name _____



Name _____

