

Alaska's Volcanoes



Parlova Evgeniya
10th class
Municipal
Comprehensive
Institution
"Gymnasium No 13"
Novomoskovsk

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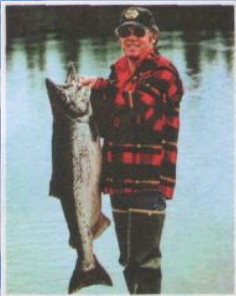
State Symbols



Flag: The blue field is for the sky and the forget-me-not, the state flower. The North Star is for the future of the state of Alaska, the most northerly of the Union. The dipper is for the Great Bear—symbolizing strength.



Tree: The tall, stately, blue-green Sitka spruce was named the state tree by the 1961 legislature. The evergreen is found throughout the southeastern and central areas of Alaska.



Fish: Gigantic king salmon weighing more than 100 pounds have been caught in Alaska waters. This popular sport fish, also called the chinook salmon, was designated as the state fish in 1962.

Motto: North to the Future!

The 49th State

Since early territorial days, many Alaskans had favored statehood. On June 30, 1958, Congress finally approved the Alaska Statehood Act. Alaska officially became the 49th state on January 3, 1959. Every four years Alaskans elect a governor and a lieutenant governor to four-year terms. Alaska's two U.S. Senators serve six-year terms of office; the one U.S. Representative a two-year term.



*Governor's Mansion,
Juneau*

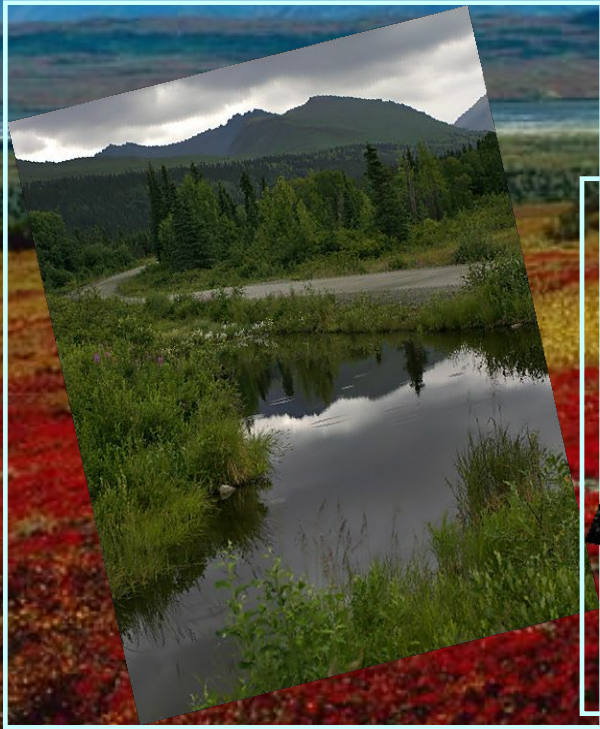
Traveling In A Unique Land

Alaska's mountain ranges, glaciers, and vast stretches of wilderness create natural barriers to transportation. Today the airplane makes it easy to travel to outlying communities and regions, and for most Alaskans, flying is a necessary part of life. Although Alaska offers many unusual ways to travel, the automobile is common and necessary. The Alaska Ferry is another alternative for travel in this vast land.



Floatplanes and cruise ship,

Traveling in A Unique Land





Alaska Parks Preserve the Great Land
treasures. Protecting this special environment for future generations has been a goal of both the state and federal governments. Now more than half of the nation's parklands are found in Alaska. One of the best-known and most-visited areas in Alaska is **Denali National Park and Preserve** which surrounds North America's highest mountain, 20,320-foot Mt. McKinley. In Western Alaska, "The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes" in **Katmai National Park and Preserve** on the Alaska Peninsula was created in 1912 by one of the most violent volcanic eruptions of modern times. **Wood-Tickchik State Park**, the largest state park in the U.S., offers superb fly-in fishing and boating. In Southeast Alaska, **Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve** encompasses one of the most active glacial areas in the world. **Totem Bight State Historical Park** in Hetchikan, and **Sitka National Historic Park**, help to preserve the magnificent totems that characterize some of Alaska's Native cultures. At **Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park**, visitors can trace the footsteps of Gold Rush fortune-seekers on their way from Skagway to Canada's Yukon Territory.

In Central Alaska, **Chugach State Park** is an accessible wilderness in Anchorage's backyard. Among the one of Alaska's most beautiful areas, **Chena River State Park**, famous for its huge king salmon, is in Interior Alaska, **Chena River State Park** wilderness for recreational uses. **Big River**, commemorates the importance



of the Kenai Peninsula is **Kenai Fossil State Park**. The **Kenai Fossil State Park** is part of the State Park System. In the interior, **Kenai Fossil State Park** preserves a large block of historical Park, on the Tanana River, commemorates Alaska's history.

Alaska's volcanoes

"We are waiting for death at any moment. A mountain has burst near lee. We are covered with ashes, in some places 10 feet and 6 feet deep. All this began June 6. Night and day we light lanterns. We cannot see daylight. We have no water, the rivers are just ashes mixed with water. Here are darkness and hell, thunder and noise. I do not know whether it is day or night. The earth is trembling, it lightens every minute. It is terrible. We are praying." But Orloff, and apparently every other witness to the 1912 eruption at Katmai that produced The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, survived. The terror that gripped Orloff and his contemporaries still lurks beneath the Earth's crust, as it has since before the beginning of recorded time. In southern Alaska, a plate that underlies much of the Pacific Ocean is being pushed beneath the North American Plate along the 25,000-foot-deep Aleutian Trench, causing stresses that spawn both earthquakes and volcanoes. Most of Alaska's young volcanoes occur along an arc that extends from about Mount Spurr, 80 miles

Augustine Volcano

Among the most spectacular of Am Alaska's many natural features are the more than 80 volcanoes that occur principally along the Aleutian volcanic arc and in the Wrangell Mountains. The eruption of Augustine Volcano in early 1976, however, brought a new awareness to many Alaskans of these fiery neighbors when noticeable ash fell over an area perhaps as large as 100,000 square miles. Augustine Volcano is a symmetrical, cone-shaped feature located on uninhabited Augustine Island, named by Captain Cook in 1778, 180 miles southwest of Anchorage in lower Cook Inlet. It has been the most active volcano in the Cook Inlet region, having erupted in 1812, 1883, 1908, 1935, 1963-64, 1976 and 1986.

Alutian Volcanic Arc

Redoubt Volcano lies near the northeast end of the Alutian volcanic arc, an active chain of volcanoes that extends 1,550 miles from near Anchorage southwest along the Alaska Peninsula to the western Alutian Islands. At least one volcano in the chain erupts, on average, each year. Scientists have identified more than 40 historically active volcanic centers along the chain, and they are particularly concerned about volcanoes whose eruptions could affect the Cook Inlet region, where about 60 percent of the state's population lives. The state's major supply,



Literature

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