

1985

## Science Notes - Alaska in Eighty-Six

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## SCIENCE NOTES

Because the modules are interdisciplinary, they are very appropriate for team teaching situations.

Interestingly, one of the major fears expressed by potential users of the modules lies in the area of autonomous student investigation. Teachers are sometimes concerned that they will lose control of their students by permitting them the opportunity to confront issues on their own. Often, teachers are also fearful that the students could stir up community anxiety by probing sensitive issues. These fears are certainly understandable. However, thousands of cases have proven them groundless. The investigative format has been used with "average" classes, bimodal classes and gifted classes. Notwithstanding the fact that such fears could be realized, the teachers with whom the writers have worked have reported no such problems. Furthermore, the writers are willing to provide a list of teachers who have used or are currently using this instructional design, permitting the potential user to interview users directly.

Research in both science and social studies clearly states that education should be focusing on social issues. At long last a program is available which permits the teacher to do exactly that — in a manner that results in long term benefits for the student and for society.

*Reviewed by Trudi L. Volk, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education, Murray State Univ., Murray, KY 42071 and Harold R. Hungerford, Prof., Dept. of Curric., Instr. and Media, Southern Ill. Univ., Carbondale, IL 62901.*

### Alaska in Eighty-Six

The study of the unique geology and botany of Alaska, Yukon and British Columbia will be the objective of a camping trip planned for June 9 to July 23, 1986. The field study program is designed for elementary and secondary teachers, college students and interested adults. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Academy of Science and is directed by Frank Starr of the Waterloo Community Schools with the instructional team led by James Walters of the University of Northern Iowa Earth Science Dept. University credit will be available.

Students will have opportunities for field study of geology, land forms, glaciers, soils, water-ice erosion processes, plant succession and flowering plant identification, as well as the environmental processes of development and maintenance and the stresses produced by human activities.

Plans are being made for visits to Fairbanks, Circle, Anchorage, Haines, Juneau, Skagway, Whitehorse and Tok. There will be a short trip along the coast on the state ferry. Backpacking trips, such as one along the Chilkoot Trail, will be highlights. Participants and staff will cook, camp, hike, drive and investigate the environment together on the entire trip. The group will travel by van, starting from and returning to the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Costs are not expected to exceed \$1500 per person plus tuition cost for six credit hours. The program will be limited to 24 participants.

More information may be obtained from the Iowa Academy of Science, P.O. Box 868, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

— C.W.B.