

Name _____



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Alaska, America's Final Frontier

In 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia. It is the biggest state. It is larger than California, Texas, and Montana put together! Canada separates Alaska from the rest of its nation.

Alaska is mostly wilderness. It has more than three million lakes and half of the world's glaciers. It has a long shore, too. More than half of the coastline of the whole United States is in Alaska! It has Mount McKinley, the continent's tallest peak. An island chain stretches from Alaska almost to Russia.

Few people live in Alaska. That may be because living there is different from living almost anywhere else. It is cold most of

the time. A "hot" day may be 72°F. The state stays dark for about six months each year when the sun hardly rises in the sky. During the other six months, there is lots of daylight when the sun does not leave the sky. It stays bright at night.

It costs a lot to live in Alaska, too. Food and other goods must come from out of state. There are few roads. In fact, the capital city of Juneau can only be reached by ferry. Yet Alaska's rugged beauty brings in a lot of tourist dollars. More than 1.7 million people visit each year.

Check Your Understanding

1. What separates Alaska from the rest of the United States?
 - a. Canada
 - b. California
 - c. Texas
 - d. Montana
2. What does Alaska have half of all in the world?
 - a. lakes
 - b. glaciers
 - c. coastline
 - d. islands
3. Mount McKinley is the tallest mountain in
 - a. Canada.
 - b. Central America.
 - c. South America.
 - d. North America.
4. Why is it expensive to live in Alaska?
 - a. Everyone has to have a car, a snowmobile, and a motorboat.
 - b. There are no tourists.
 - c. Most of the food has to be shipped in from far away.
 - d. It is hard to sleep for half the year.

