

Land of the Midnight Sun

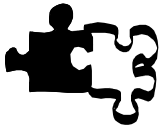
Denali National Park

Grades Two and Three



OBJECTIVES

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the sun and how hours of daylight change depending on the Earth's location and season. Students will describe the effects of these variations.



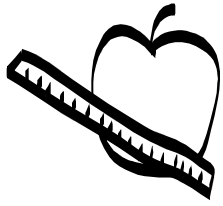
SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Science
- Language Arts

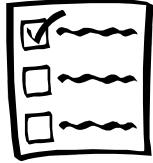


SUMMARY

1. Display and examine the Denali National Park quarter design. Locate this site on a class map. As background information, explain to the students that the United States Mint began to issue the quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program in 2010. By the time the program ends in 2021, there will be a total of 56 designs on the back of the coin. Each design will focus on a different national site—one from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia.
2. Read aloud the chosen text on Alaska. Brainstorm reasons why days can be so long in Alaska.
3. Tell the students that Alaska is called “the land of the midnight sun” because there is a time of year when the daylight lasts all night and there is also a time of year when it is light outside for only short periods. Demonstrate how the days can be short or long using a flashlight and basketball to represent the Earth rotating around the sun.
4. Read the students a text about the sun. Discuss the effects that the Earth's position in relation to the sun has on both day and night. Share some examples with the students. Discuss how this affects the Dahl sheep and other animals that are found in Alaska.
5. Introduce the students to the “Life in the Midnight Sun” worksheet. Review the directions together.
6. Have the students complete the “Life in the Midnight Sun” worksheets and present them to the class.



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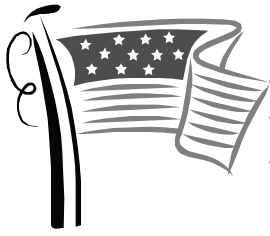
ASSESSMENT

- Take anecdotal notes about the students' participation in class discussions.
- Evaluate the students' worksheets and projects for understanding of the lesson objectives.



RESOURCES

- "Denali National Park Quarter" page
- "Life in the Midnight Sun" worksheet
- National Park Service: www.nps.gov
- Denali National Park: www.nps.gov/dena/index.htm



Name _____

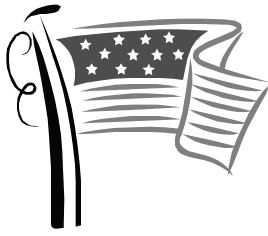
Life in the Midnight Sun

Directions: Illustrate and describe an event in your day with more hours of sun in the top box. Illustrate and describe an event in your day with fewer hours of sun.



MY DAY WITH MORE HOURS OF SUN

MY DAY WITH FEWER HOURS OF SUN



Denali National Park Quarter



The United States of America

