

<b>Course Information</b> Course: History 05 2020 Unit: 7. THE UNITED STATES - ONE NATION WITH MANY REGIONS Assignment: 10. Alaska	<b>Originating Course Information</b> Course: History And Geography 500 Unit: 7. THE UNITED STATES - ONE NATION WITH MANY REGIONS Assignment: 12. Alaska
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## ALASKA

Two of the states in the United States do not border on the rest of the country. One of them is Alaska. Alaska is our coldest state. It is famous for great snow-covered mountains, *glaciers*, and Eskimos.

Here are your goals for this lesson:

- Describe features of Alaska
- Identify the state capital of Alaska

### VOCABULARY

<input type="checkbox"/> glacier	A river of ice that moves slowly down a mountain valley
<input type="checkbox"/> military	Soldiers for war; the army, navy, air force
<input type="checkbox"/> territory	Land that belongs to a government
<input type="checkbox"/> tropical	Refers to the hot, humid areas of the world
<input type="checkbox"/> uniform	Always the same; not changing
<input type="checkbox"/> volcanic	Caused by a volcano



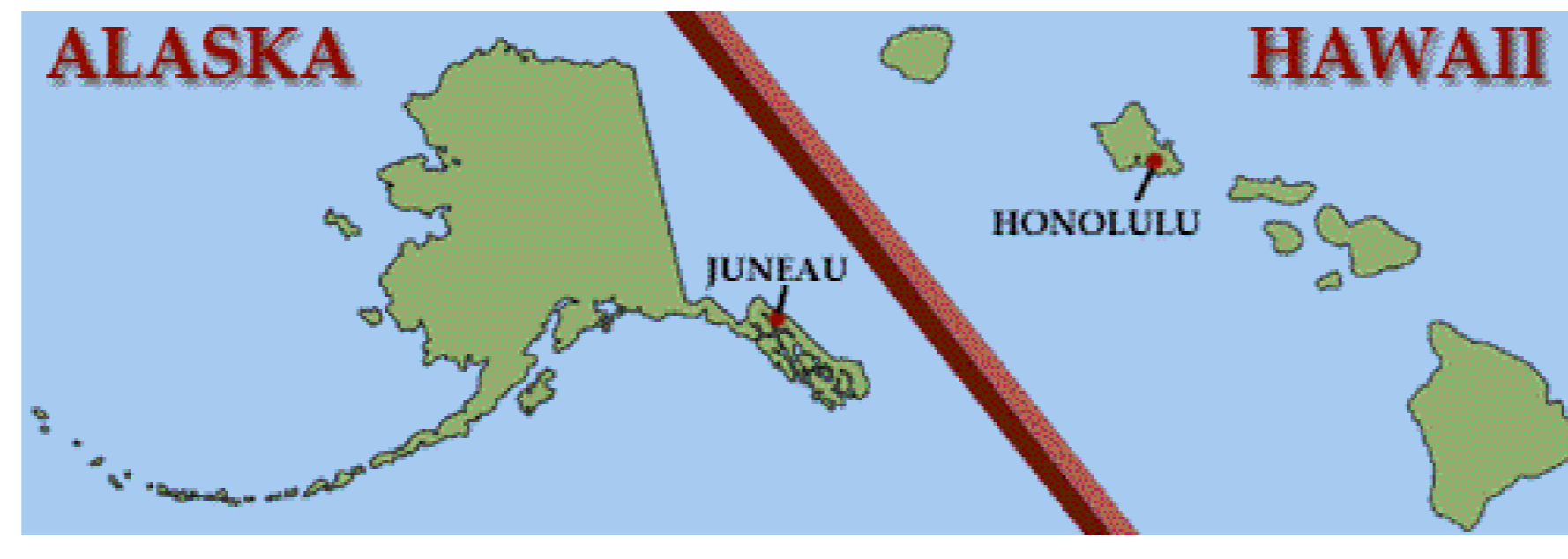
Vocab Arcade

## ALASKA



Click on the image above to see a video about Alaska

Alaska is part of North America, but it is closer to Russia than to most of the United States. The *territory* once belonged to Russia, which used it only for fur trapping and trading. Russia sold Alaska to the United States in 1867. When William Seward, Secretary of State, bought Alaska, people thought he was foolish. They called Alaska, "Seward's Folly." Thirty years later, in 1897, when gold was discovered in Alaska, people did not think he was so foolish. Alaska was a bargain at just two cents an acre.



Gold seekers suffered many hardships in the cold mountains. Some found gold, but many had to turn to other ways of making a living. They stayed in Alaska, and many mined or fished. Alaska was a territory of the United States until 1959 when it was made the forty-ninth state in the union. Juneau is the capital city.

Transportation has always been a problem in Alaska. High mountains, frozen land, and great distances make travel difficult. The Alaska Railroad was completed in 1923. The Alaska Highway was built in 1942. The road connected Alaska with the rest of the United States. Most people in Alaska travel by air or on water.

An exciting development in Alaska in 1977 was the 800-mile pipeline that was built to bring oil to the United States. The pipeline takes oil from Prudhoe Bay on the north coast and carries it to Valdez on the south coast. At Valdez it is loaded on oil tanker ships and taken to the United States. The sale of oil has given Alaska more money and more jobs than ever before.



Trans-Alaska Pipeline

**Geography and climate.** Alaska is a large peninsula located at the northwest corner of Canada. The area has spectacular scenery, including the highest mountains on the continent, thousands of *glaciers* and lakes, wilderness areas, and wild animals.

Alaska makes most people think of ice and snow. Ice stays year-round on the mountains and in the far north. Most of Alaska, however, has regular seasons with cold winters and warm summers. People in Alaska enjoy going to the beach in the summer.

[Click here for a look at the change in seasons at an Alaskan State Park](#)

The growing season is very short. The daylight lasts for twenty hours a day in the summer. During this short season, crops get ripe quickly in the farming areas. Alaska is so far north that days are very long in summer and very short in winter.

Rainfall is not *uniform* in Alaska. It varies from only four inches a year in the arctic north to over two hundred inches in the panhandle area in the south. Water is an important natural resource in Alaska and is used for making electricity, supplying the needs of people, manufacturing, and mining.

**Population.** Alaska is the largest state in the United States, but it has a small population. Only Wyoming has fewer people. About one-third of the people living in Alaska were born there. Most of them are Eskimos and other Alaska Natives. Many of the Eskimos live north and west of the peninsula. Other Alaska Native peoples live in the central part and on the Aleutian Islands. Most of the white population lives in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Alaska is called the last frontier because much of the area is not settled. People from other states go there to find adventure and opportunity.

**Economy.** More people in Alaska earn a living working for the government than working for any industry. *Military* bases and radar stations for the protection of Canada and the United States are located in Alaska and employ many people.

The natural resources of Alaska provide most of the other jobs. Forests are cut to make lumber and paper. When the trees have been cleared, the land is good for farming and the soil is rich. Farmers grow grain and hay. Cattle and chickens are kept for meat. Fruits and vegetables are grown near the cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks. Fishing and fish processing are important industries. Salmon is the most common fish.



Red salmon in a river in Alaska.

Nearly half the money earned in Alaska comes from its natural resources. For many years, gold was the most important natural resource. Today, oil is most important to Alaska's economy. Other natural resources include sand and gravel that are mined to build roads. Coal and copper are also mined. Alaska has the largest silver mine and the largest zinc mine.

The tourist industry is also important. Thousands of people take vacations in Alaska. They enjoy the beautiful, scenic mountains and the historic towns along the coast. Those who were native to Alaska such as Eskimos entertain tourists by showing them customs from their rich history

### Question #1 Matching

Show Answer

Match the vocabulary word with its definition. Match the items in the left column to the items in the right column.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. a river of ice that moves slowly down a mountain valley | <input type="checkbox"/> glacier   |
| 2. soldiers for war; the army, navy, air force             | <input type="checkbox"/> volcanic  |
| 3. land that belongs to a government                       | <input type="checkbox"/> uniform   |
| 4. refers to the hot, humid areas of the world             | <input type="checkbox"/> territory |
| 5. always the same; not changing                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military  |
| 6. caused by a volcano                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> tropical  |

### Question #2 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Winters are cold and summers are warm in most of Alaska.

- True  
 False

### Question #3 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Because the growing season is short, crops cannot be grown in Alaska.

- True  
 False

### Question #4 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Alaska is the largest state and has the largest population.

- True  
 False

### Question #5 MultipleChoice

Show Answer

Which natural resource is most important to Alaska's economy?

- oil  
 gold  
 coal  
 copper

### Question #6 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Nearly half the money earned in Alaska comes from mining.

- True  
 False

### Question #7 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Forests are a natural resource in Alaska.

- True  
 False

### Question #8 TextMultipleChoice

Show Answer

Alaska was purchased from  in 1867.