

## What is a MAP CHALLENGE?

This **Map Challenge** is a special workshop, challenging you to learn more -- taking you through the labeling of this map in detail!

A **Map Challenge** helps you really get involved when completing our maps!

# ALASKA State MAP CHALLENGE!



Expanded Map Workshops, for Map of the Month's Individual maps

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# Map of the Month

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**Boundary Lines:**  
Why are they drawn differently?  
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline.  
Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines. A long line with three dashes shows the border between the USA (Alaska) and Canada and the USA and Russia.

## Vocabulary

Look up these words and terms in a dictionary or encyclopedia. They may become part of your discussions about the geography, history, native culture and resources of Alaska.

Seward's Folly  
Midnight Sun  
Denali  
Iditarod Trail  
Eskimos  
Aleuts  
panhandle  
strait  
time zone  
glacier  
fjord  
permafrost  
tundra  
bay  
peninsula  
bush  
plateau  
climate  
hot springs  
oil reserve  
petroleum  
fishery  
mining  
agriculture  
forestry  
statehood

**MAP KEY**

- ▲ Mountains
- River
- Capital
- City
- Town

# Alaska: Largest State in the USA

Welcome to Alaska! Alaska is the state with the most land area in the United States. Located in the northwestern corner of North America, Alaska shares its eastern boundary with the country of Canada. The Arctic Ocean lies to the north, the Pacific Ocean to the south. The country of Russia is only fifty-one miles from Alaska to the west, across the Bering Strait.

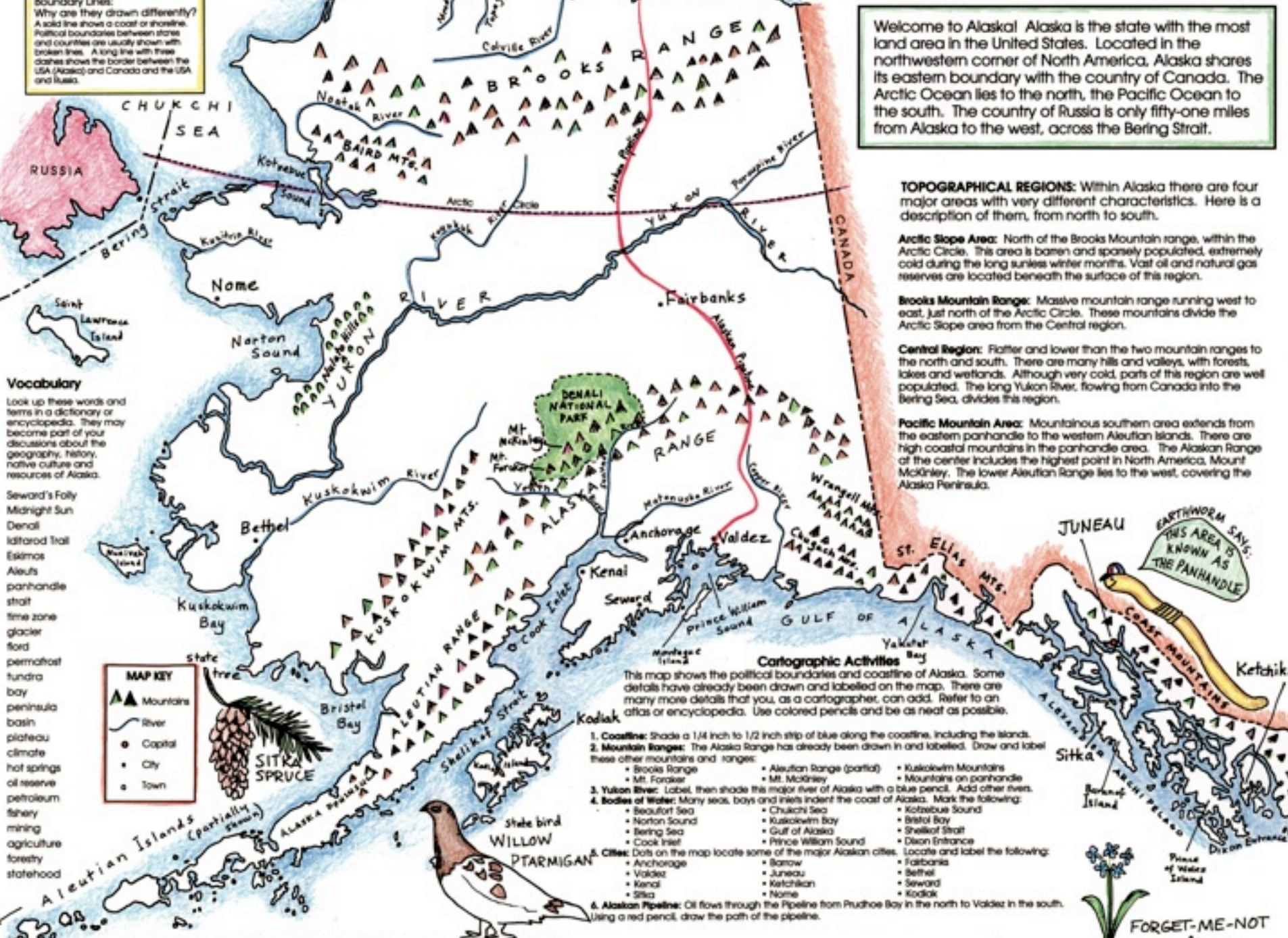
**TOPOGRAPHICAL REGIONS:** Within Alaska there are four major areas with very different characteristics. Here is a description of them, from north to south.

**Arctic Slope Area:** North of the Brooks Mountain range, within the Arctic Circle. This area is barren and sparsely populated, extremely cold during the long sunless winter months. Vast oil and natural gas reserves are located beneath the surface of this region.

**Brooks Mountain Range:** Massive mountain range running west to east, just north of the Arctic Circle. These mountains divide the Arctic Slope area from the Central region.

**Central Region:** Flatter and lower than the two mountain ranges to the north and south. There are many hills and valleys, with forests, lakes and wetlands. Although very cold, parts of this region are well populated. The long Yukon River, flowing from Canada into the Bering Sea, divides this region.

**Pacific Mountain Area:** Mountainous southern area extends from the eastern panhandle to the western Aleutian Islands. There are high coastal mountains in the panhandle area. The Alaskan Range of the center includes the highest point in North America, Mount McKinley. The lower Aleutian Range lies to the west, covering the Alaska Peninsula.



**Cartographic Activities**  
This map shows the political boundaries and coastline of Alaska. Some details have already been drawn and labelled on the map. There are many more details that you, as a cartographer, can add. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Use colored pencils and be as neat as possible.

- Coastline:** Shade a 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch strip of blue along the coastline, including the islands.
- Mountain Ranges:** The Alaska Range has already been drawn in and labelled. Draw and label these other mountains and ranges:
  - Brooks Range
  - Mt. Foraker
  - Aleutian Range (partial)
  - Mt. McKinley
  - Kuskokwim Mountains
  - Mountains on panhandle
- Yukon River:** Label, then shade this major river of Alaska with a blue pencil. Add other rivers.
  - Kuskokwim Bay
  - Bristol Bay
  - Shelikof Strait
  - Dixon Entrance
- Bodies of Water:** Many seas, bays and inlets indent the coast of Alaska. Mark the following:
  - Beaufort Sea
  - Norton Sound
  - Bering Sea
  - Cook Inlet
  - Chukchi Sea
  - Gulf of Alaska
  - Prince William Sound
  - Shelikof Strait
  - Dixon Entrance
- Cities:** Dots on the map locate some of the major Alaskan cities. Locate and label the following:
  - Anchorage
  - Valdez
  - Kenai
  - Sitka
  - Barrow
  - Juneau
  - Ketchikan
  - Nome
  - Fairbanks
  - Bethel
  - Seward
  - Kodiak
- Alaskan Pipeline:** Oil flows through the Pipeline from Prudhoe Bay in the north to Valdez in the south. Using a red pencil, draw the path of the pipeline.

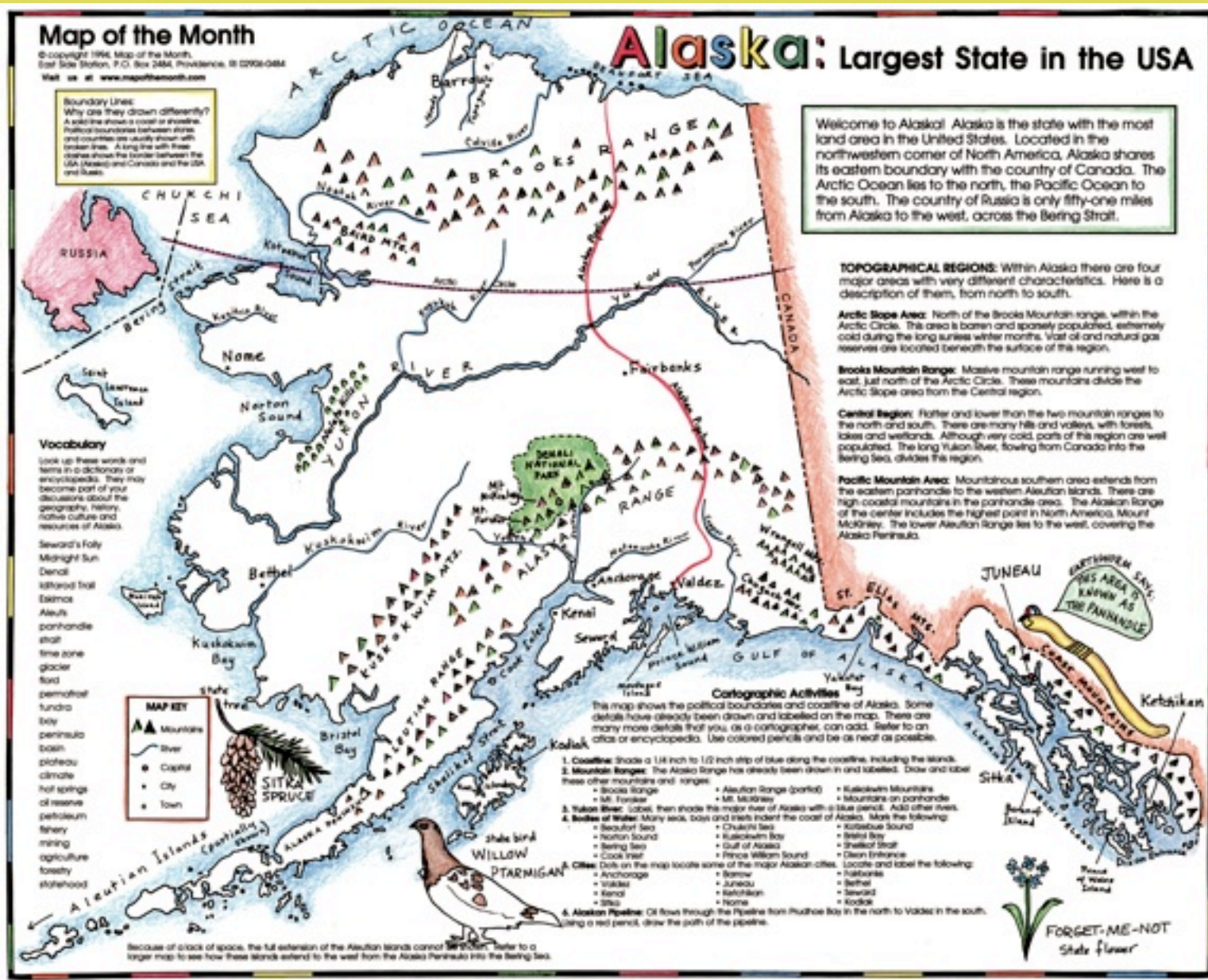
Because of a lack of space, the full extension of the Aleutian Islands cannot be shown. Refer to a larger map to see how these islands extend to the west from the Alaska Peninsula into the Bering Sea.

ALASKA is the state with the largest amount of land in the United States.

ALASKA is located in the northwest corner of the continent of NORTH AMERICA.

ALASKA shares its eastern boundary with the country of CANADA.

The country of RUSSIA lies to the west, only 51 miles away.



# ALASKA: Finished version

Refer to the previous page for the full size version of the finished map!

This map shows what the map looks like after all the activities are completed. All **ACTIVITIES** are listed on the map.

This file give you **TIPS** on completing the individual **ACTIVITIES**.



Our Map Challenge acts like a workshop, taking you through the labeling of this map in detail!

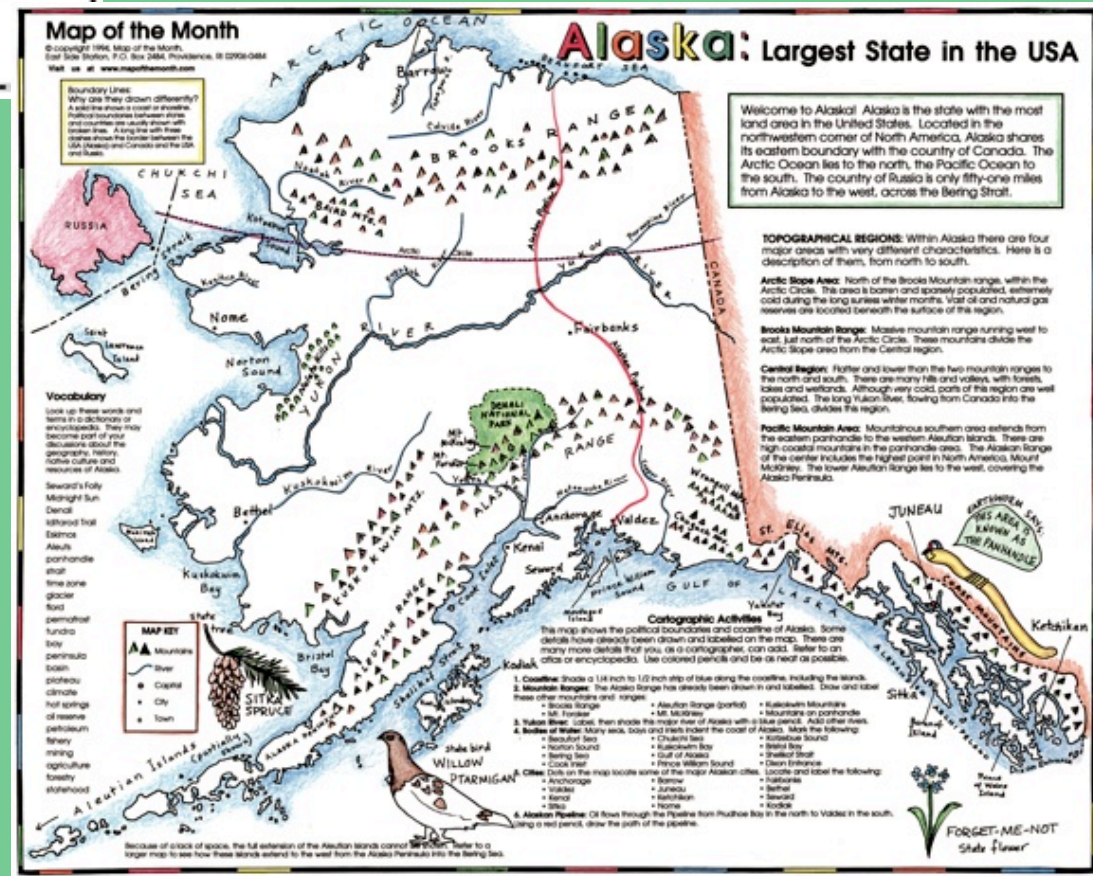
When you start out, the black and white map is blank, as at left. When you are done, it is a colorful work of cartographic art! Every student will create a unique completed version of the map -- see one version of below!

If you need more copies of the [ALASKA](#) map for your class, click [HERE!](#)

### ACTIVITIES!

In addition to the map activities, we challenge you to complete some other activities! In the pages that follow, you can also to complete some math, science, literacy and history-related activities!

Whenever you see our mascot **EARTHWORM**, you will have one of these extra beyond-the-map activities that relate to **ALASKA!**



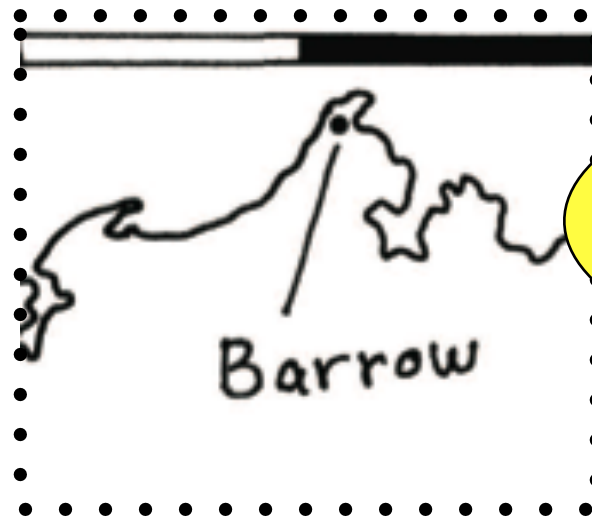
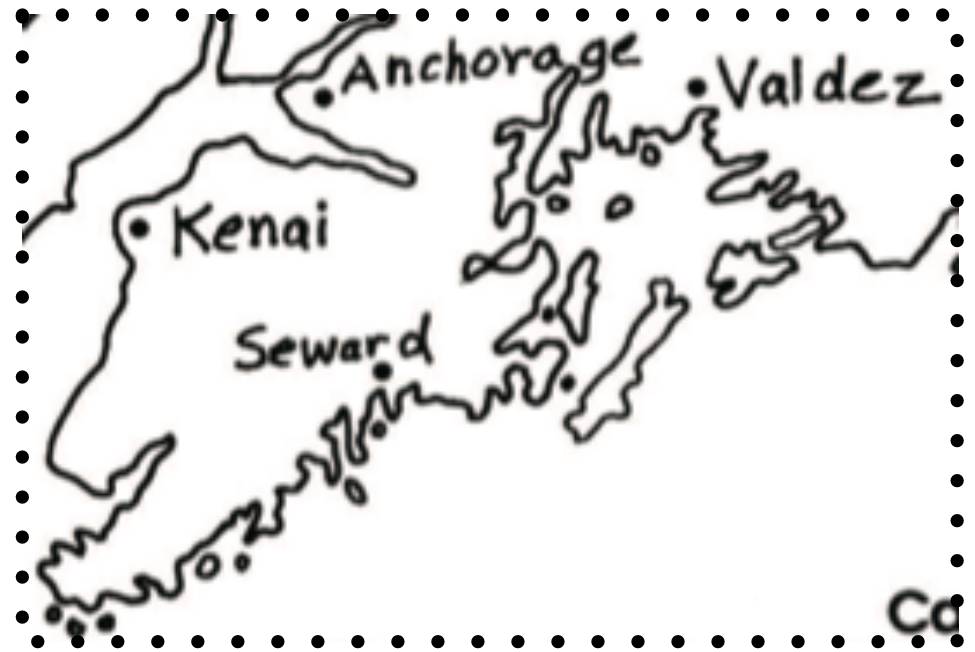
# CITIES

ALASKA has many cities.

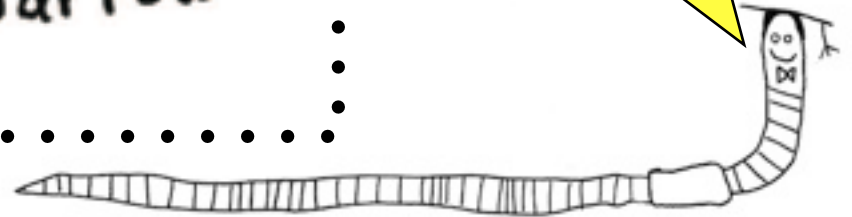
As you label the names of the cities, use your neatest lettering.

Capitalize the first letter of each city's name.

Neatness is super important! Remember, you are making this map to show other people and have them enjoy, so presentation is everything!



To label a city name further away, draw a "leader line" to point to the dot.



# ALONG THE COAST!

ALASKA has a lot  
of coastline!

Shade a nice edging of blue  
along the coastline to make  
the water stand out.

As you label the names of the  
bodies of water, use your  
neatest lettering.

Fill in the large YUKON  
River with blue. Use capital  
Letters for this major river.

Draw over the smaller rivers  
with blue. Use lower case  
letters to label the smaller  
rivers.



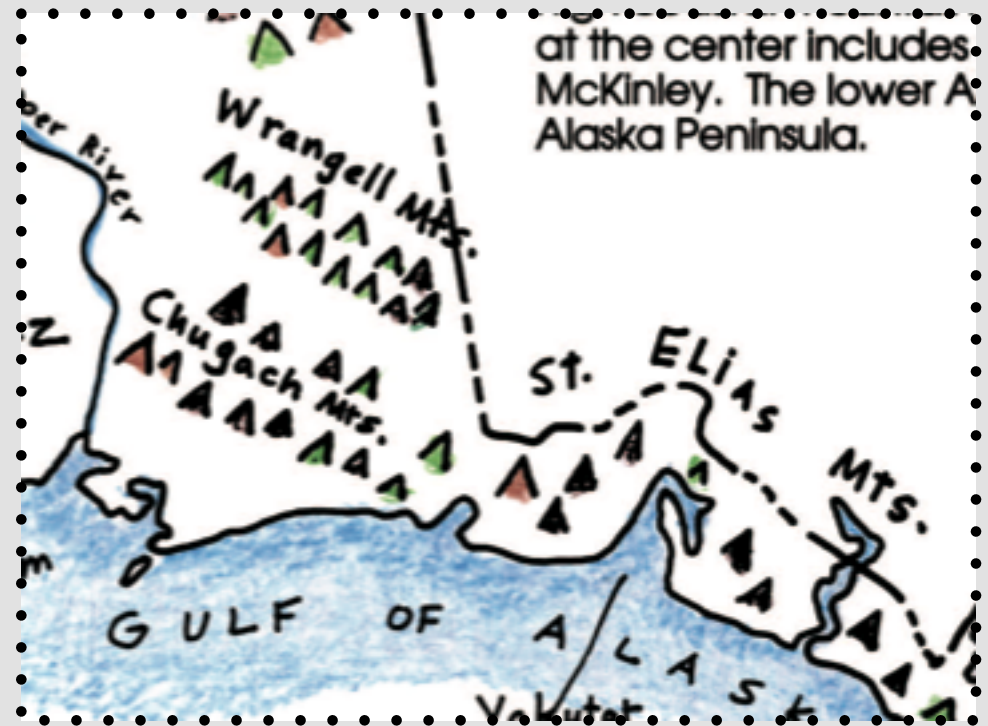
These map details, shown inside  
the dotted boxes, are taken from  
your large map that you are  
working on!

# MOUNTAIN RANGES

When labeling large MOUNTAIN RANGES on your large map, use CAPITAL LETTERS! This will make the names really stand out!



Use lower case lettering when labeling the smaller mountain ranges!



at the center includes McKinley. The lower Alaska Peninsula.

# IN THE PARK



Draw in the outline of the large **Wilderness Area** of the DENALI NATIONAL PARK.

Color it GREEN to make it stand out on your map.  
See how the park includes part of the mountain range.

# DENALI

DENALI is the native name for Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America. Denali means "The High One," translated from a native Alaskan language called Koyukon. Denali is part of the Alaska Range of mountains.

The United States formed a large national park in the area around the mountain -- over 6 million acres of land! This area has the highest peaks in the Alaska Range.

The park land includes some interesting geographic features. Boreal forests, those that have coniferous trees, are in the lower elevation.

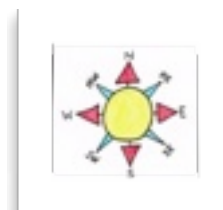
In the middle elevations, there is tundra land, flat land which is frozen year round. The high peaks in the park are made up of rock and snow. Glaciers are also a feature of the parkland, and they run in a southerly direction.



1. Can you research to find the highest peaks on the other **SIX** CONTINENTS?

2. Make a list with the names of the continents and their highest peaks.

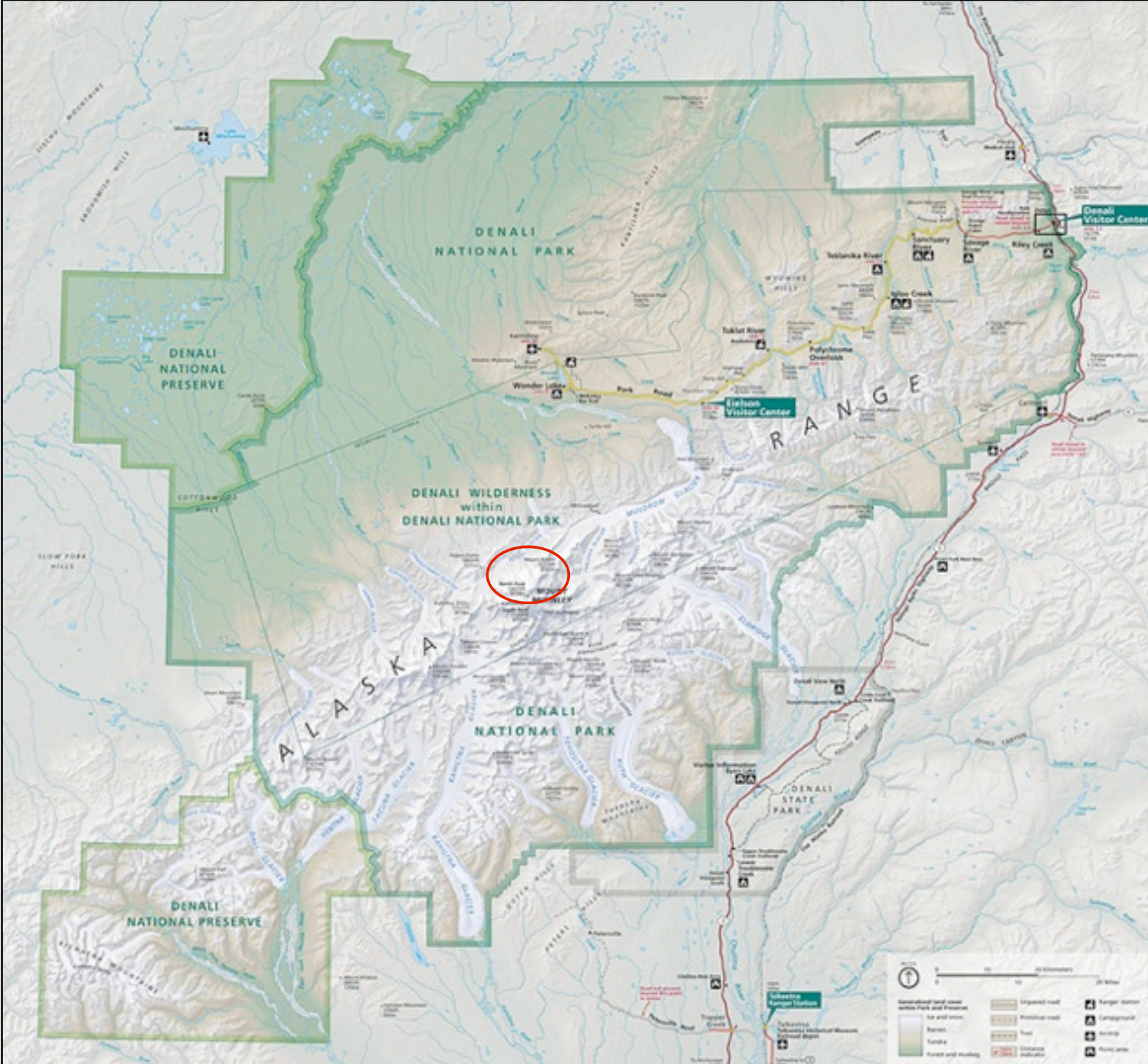
# ON THE MAP!



This map shows the boundaries of Denali National Park in Alaska, more than 6 million acres.

The red circle encloses Denali, which is also known as Mount McKinley.

See how the Alaskan Range stretches from **NORTHEAST** to **SOUTHWEST**.



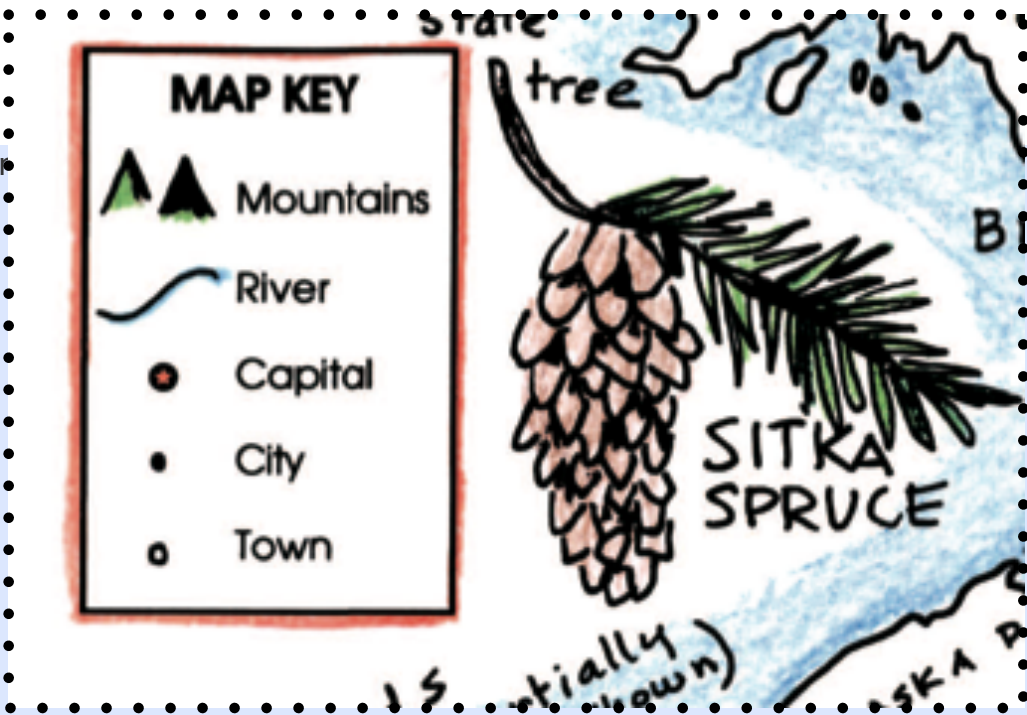
# ADDING MORE COLOR!



Color along the boundary lines in different colors  
for Russia and Canada.

Color along the ARCTIC CIRCLE.  
Draw in the ALASKAN PIPELINE.

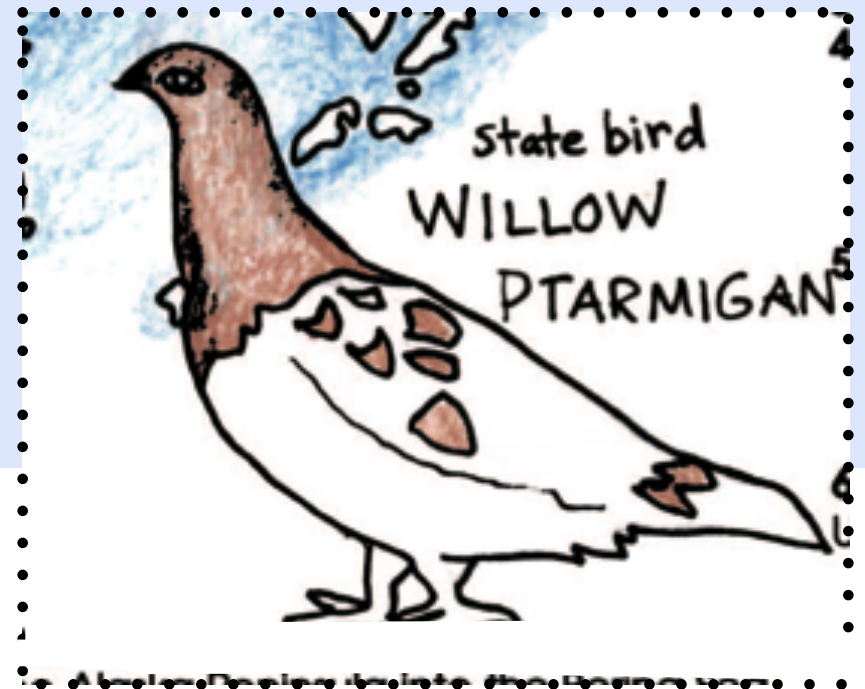




Draw in the STATE BIRD.  
Represent the STATE TREE.

COLOR the MAP KEY!

DECORATION!



## ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

The Aleutians are a long chain of volcanic islands, stretching for 1,200 miles. The Aleutians divide the northern Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea. There are 14 larger islands and 57 small ones. There are also 57 volcanoes! They are part of the state of Alaska, and the western islands in the chain stretch towards the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula.

Scientists have a theory that the Aleutians were once formed a **land bridge**, and were not divided by water. This might have allowed ancient people from ASIA to walk across to the continent of NORTH AMERICA.

There are only about 8,200 people in all the islands. They are called the Aleuts.

In the Aleutians, a small city called Unalaska holds more than half that number of people in all the islands combined!

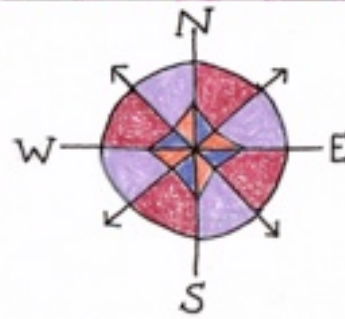
## ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

0 200 miles

Professor Earthworm



Make a compass rose for your map by following the directions [HERE!](#)



Near Islands

Bering Sea

Rat Islands

PACIFIC OCEAN

Andreanof Islands

Fox Islands

# ON THE MAP!



Lines of **latitude** encircle the globe.

As we look at this projection of the Earth map, we can see lines of **longitude** merging at the North Pole.

Looking down on the North Pole, we can see the continent of Asia to the west and the continent of North America to the east.

The RED DOT makes it clear exactly where the Aleutian Islands are located. How many degrees of longitude, approximately, do the Aleutian Islands, span. Use an atlas!



# TUXEDO CLUB OF THE ALEUTIANS!

We found it curious that these Aleutians creatures are colored in Black and white, reminding us of fancy tuxedos!

Can you write a short story that has these animals as characters?

Write about how your characters meet! Can you think of a get-together that that makes them all share an experience?



You can use our title, or make up one of your own!

## Horned Puffins



Photo: United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

## KILLER WHALES



Whiskered  
Auklet



# FROM THE SKY!

Here is a glacier slowly winding its way through the Alaskan mountains!



Many people dream of vacations in tropical places with beaches and warm sun, and lots of green vegetation! What about a vacation to the glaciers? Or to the snowy mountains? Write a poem that compares and contrasts these two very different ways of taking time off from daily life!



# ALASKA'S STATE FLAG



Do some research to find out more about the Alaska state flag.

What do the stars stand for?

Why was this flag chosen to represent the state?