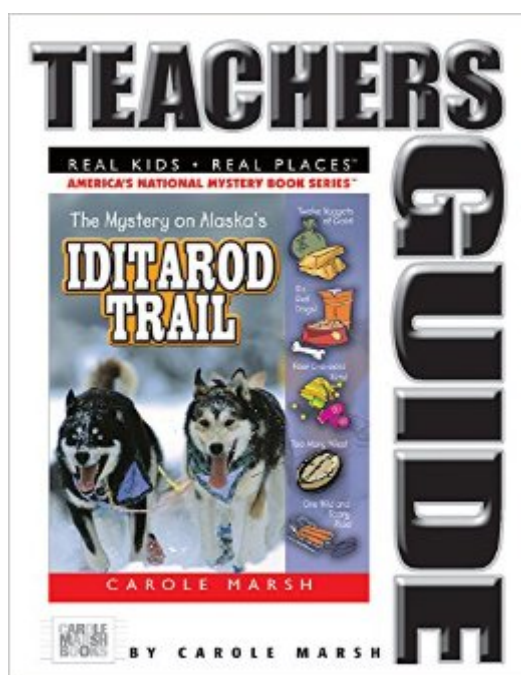


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The Mystery On The Iditarod Trail (Real Kids, Real Places) (Teacher's Guide) (Carole Marsh Mysteries (Paperback))



Synopsis

Some call it the toughest, roughest dogsled race in the world. We call it a GIGANTIC history lesson! This comprehensive guide enhances the many dramatic learning opportunities students can gain from reading *The Mystery on Alaska's Iditarod Trail* by Carole Marsh. Some call it the toughest, roughest dogsled race in the world. We call it a GIGANTIC history lesson! This comprehensive guide enhances the many dramatic learning opportunities students can gain from reading *The Mystery on Alaska's Iditarod Trail* by Carole Marsh.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Far from being about 'real places, real people', this book is a compilation of errors. Almost everything Marsh wrote about Alaska history and geography is incorrect, her statements about Alaska Natives are not only wrong, but racist; and much of what she wrote about the Iditarod Race is wrong. The Serum went from Anchorage to Nenana by train, then to Nome by dogsled. She attributed Togo's exploits to Balto, one of Seppala's second-rate dogs that he left behind. She described the Steps, Dalzell Gorge, the run over the Alaska Range, and Farewell Burn as 'much the same' as the relatively flat start from Willow, not Wasilla, (but hey, they start with W, have two 'l's and are on the road system). Her characters place Ruby in Yukon Territory, which is in Canada. Between Ruby and Kaltag, the trail follows the ice road on the Yukon River. I taught in Nulato and was a checker for the 2010 race and I guarantee you, the Yukon doesn't go over any mountains!

Also, a few thousand dollars of gold weighs much less than a pound, not as much as two people and sled loaded with excess gear. It's also laughable that a musher with a freight sled with two (illegal) passengers and hundreds of pounds of gear, towed by Siberians and Malamutes, which are powerful freight hauling dogs, could beat mushers with lightweight racing sleds pulled by speedy huskies. Alaska Natives do not all prefer to be called Inuit. And why was a part Native girl described as 'looking not quite all human' because she had black hair and blue eyes, like her husky pup. Both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod are about dog care and no vet and no musher would allow dogs that had ingested antifreeze to run in a race the next day. Antifreeze can kill or disable dogs, something Marsh did not make clear. Do not use this book in your classroom because of the errors on every other page. Read Zuma's Paw Prints on the Iditarod website for facts.

My 3rd graders wanted to read more about the Iditarod after reading Balto. It was a little above their level but they were my best readers, so they did enjoy it.

Great book and the resource book helped our teaching team plan a fun thematic unit for our students!!!

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