



The **Iditarod Dog Sled Race** began during the diphtheria epidemic in February of 1925. The children of Nome, Alaska desperately needed a life-saving serum. The only serum available at the time was in Anchorage, Alaska, which was over 1,000 miles from Nome. The state governor decided to use dogs pulling sleds to distribute the serum throughout the Alaska terrain.

There was a train running from Anchorage to Nenana. From there, a dog team and over 20 drivers took the serum 674 miles from Nenana to Nome. The serum arrived 127.5 hours later in Nome. The popular legacy of this infamous race thus began.

The actual race is over 1,150 miles; 1,049 miles is a symbolic figure: 1,000 miles plus 49, recognizing Alaska as the 49th state. The Northern Route is used on even number years, and the Southern Route is used on odd number years.

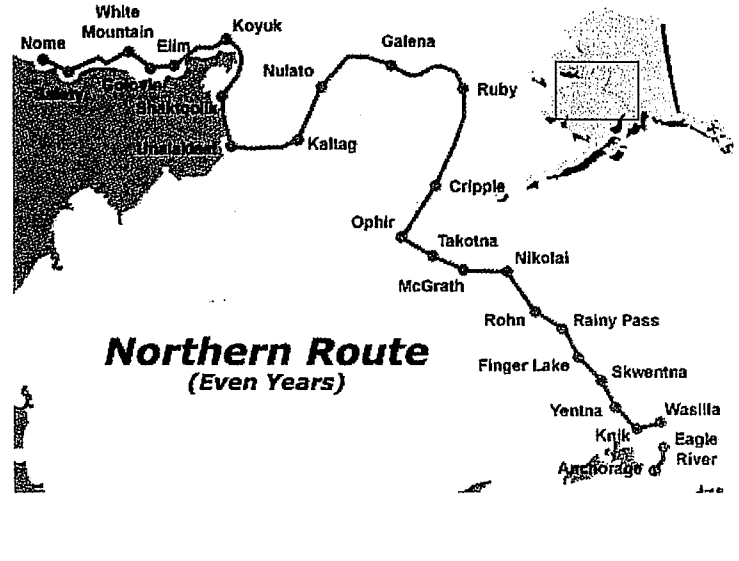
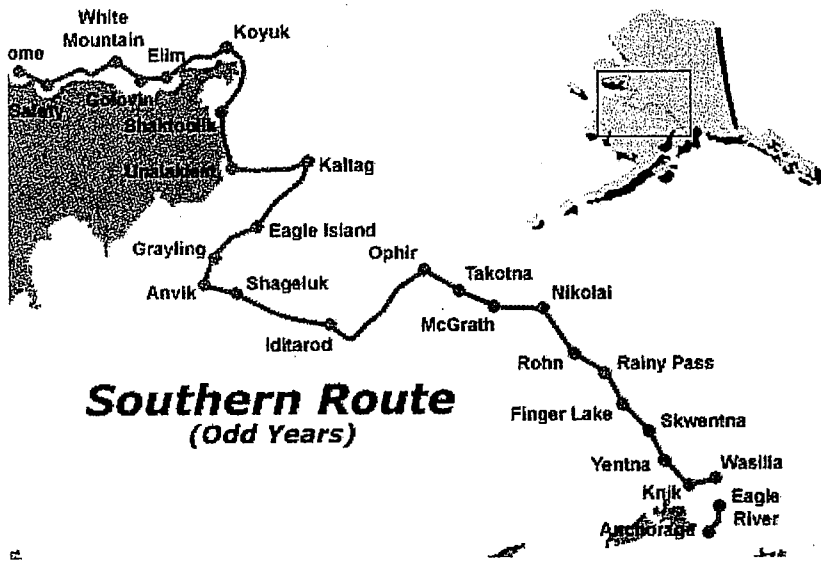
There are 27 checkpoints (excluding Anchorage, the starting point and Nome, the finishing point) along the trail. Mushers (the racers), must sign in and out at each checkpoint. At the beginning of the race each musher has 2,500 pounds of dog food for his team to be distributed during the race at these checkpoint stops.

Iditarod Facts Closest Finish: One second between Dick Mackey and Rick Swenson in 1978. Dick was the winner.

First Woman to win: Libby Riddles in 1985

Age Range of the Mushers: 18 to 81 years. No, not a typo error, it is 81!

Temperature Ranges from Previous Races: +45 to -60 degrees Fahrenheit—coooooold!



2005 Prize Money

Iditarod XXXIII Prize Money

Pos	Winnings	Pos	Winnings	Pos	Winnings
1st	\$72,066.67	11th	\$26,111.11	21st	\$11,488.89
2nd	\$65,800.00	12th	\$22,977.78	22nd	\$9,400.00
3rd	\$59,533.33	13th	\$20,888.89	23rd	\$8,355.56
4th	\$52,222.22	14th	\$18,800.00	24th	\$5,535.56
5th	\$45,955.56	15th	\$17,755.56	25th	\$4,700.00
6th	\$41,777.78	16th	\$16,711.11	26th	\$3,446.67
7th	\$38,644.44	17th	\$15,666.67	27th	\$2,820.00
8th	\$35,511.11	18th	\$14,622.22	28th	\$2,402.22
9th	\$32,377.78	19th	\$13,577.78	29th	\$2,193.33
10th	\$29,244.44	20th	\$12,533.33	30th	\$1,880.00
Total Top Thirty				\$705,000.00	
Remaining Finishers				\$45,107.00	
Total Purse				\$750,107.00	

Running the Iditarod: The Last Great Race

Congratulations! You have decided to move to Alaska and prepare to run the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. First, you must acquire dogs and set up a kennel. Next, you must purchase all of the essential equipment you will need for yourself and your dogs. Finally, you will need to calculate all fees associated with entering the race.

Your job is to figure out how much all of this will cost. Be prepared to share how you determined your costs.

AQUIRING DOGS AND SETTING UP A KENNEL: \$ _____

Use the information below to determine how much your initial investment will be to acquire your dogs, set up your kennel (and begin training).

- You would like to open your kennel with 20 dogs: one seasoned lead dog, twelve veteran dogs, and seven rookie dogs.
- Each dog will require its own house and gear (which includes a feed pan, stake, chain, hooks and collar).
- Each dog must be seen by the veterinarian.
- For training you will also need dog harnesses (one per dog) and one wheeled training cart.

Use the price list below to determine your initial investment. Do all of your work in the box below. You may use a calculator, but be sure to show your work.

<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Cost Per Dog</u>	<u>Misc.</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Seasoned Leader	\$2,700	Dog House & Gear	\$38 per dog
Veteran Dog	\$415	Padded Harness	\$139 each
Rookie Dog	\$215	Wheeled Training Cart	\$700
Vet Fees	\$25 per dog		

PURCHASING ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: \$

There is certain equipment you will need to purchase for yourself and your dogs before the race:

- You will begin the race with 16 dogs.
- You will need 2 toboggan sleds and one basket sled.
- You will need only 1 sled bag.
- You will need 1500 booties total for the race

You will also need equipment for your health and safety. Discuss with your group what you think you need to purchase (as well as the quantity of each item). Obviously each group may differ as to what they purchase. Be prepared to defend your order, *by having prepared a budget for all of your needed supplies.*

Use the catalog order form from Moffat's Mushing Supplies and Sled Dog Equipment to order all of this equipment.

Juneau state sales tax: 5% (Alaska does not have a state sales tax nor a state income tax).

Delivery Charges *(Alaska only)*

Order Total	Shipping Total
Up to \$50.00	\$6.95
\$50.01 - \$100.00	\$12.95
\$100.01 - \$125.00	\$16.95
\$125.01 - \$200.00	\$21.00
\$200.01 & over	10% of total purchase

Mushing Supplies and Sled Dog Equipment

Sleds

Lazy Lightning Sprint Sled	\$695
Echoes Basket Sled	\$895
Sled Bag	\$200

Clothing

Trans-Alaska Insulated Snow Suit	\$231.95
Trans-Alaska III Snow Boot	\$149.95
Extreme Cold Weather Headgear	\$39.95
Expedition Mittens	\$24.95
Alaskan Outfitter Snowshoes	\$99.99

Gear

Camper's Ax	\$39.99
Deluxe Lightweight Head Lamp	\$146.30
Trans-Alaska Sleeping Bag	\$299.99
Pro-Gold Knife	\$56.99
Snow Peak Titanium Stove	\$199.99

Mushing Gear

Gangline (12 dog)	\$174.75
Harness	\$20.95 per dog
Necklines and Snaps	\$4.50 per dog
Dog Booties	\$.90 each (1000 recommended)
Dog Coat	\$29.95 each
Legwraps	\$39.94 set of 4

Emergency Equipment

Rescue Laser Flare	\$89.95
Fundamental First Aid Kit	\$79.99

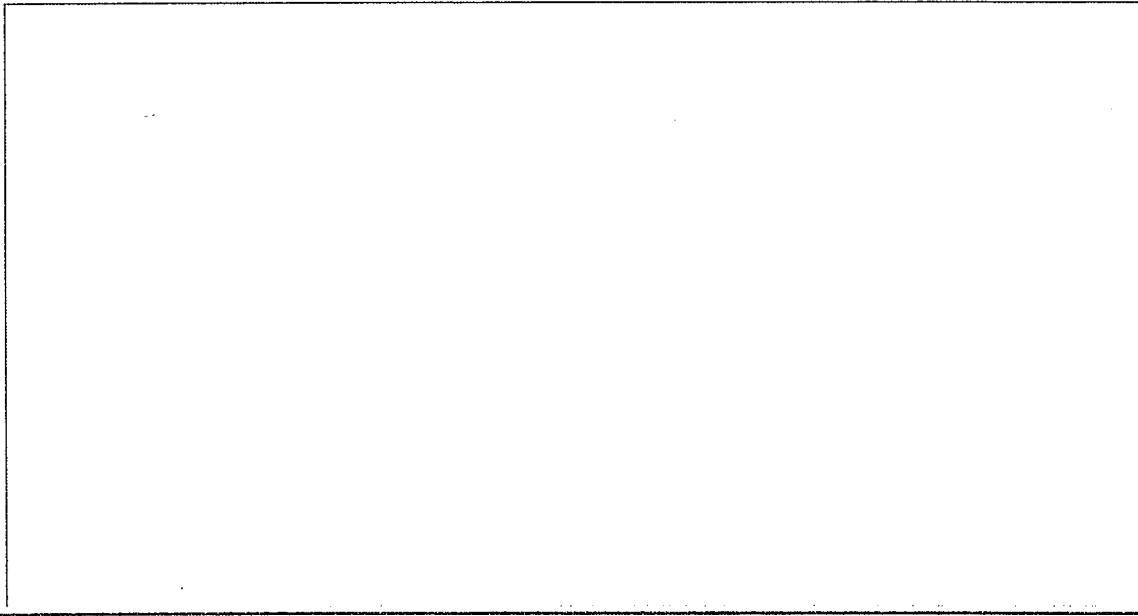
Racing Fees: \$ _____

Now calculate how much the race itself will cost you, including all fees and food costs. Remember you plan to begin the race with 16 dogs. Use the information provided below.

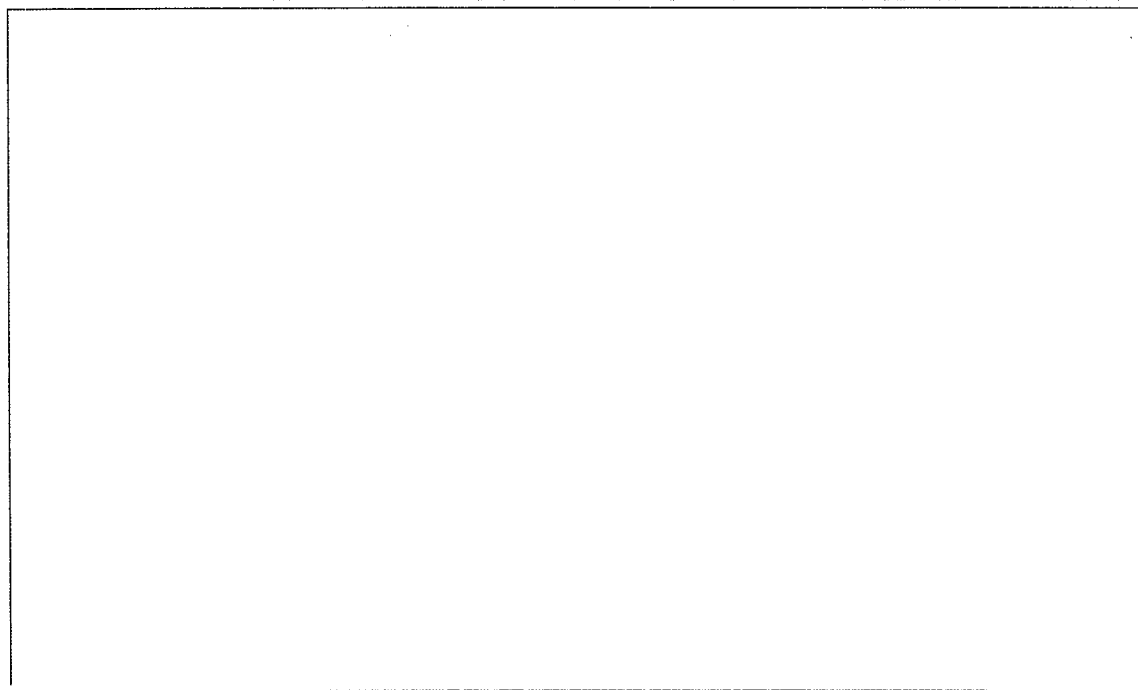
- The entry fee this year is \$1,850.00.
- Each dog must be approved to race by the vet. Cost: \$25.00 per dog
- Food for yourself will cost \$250.
- Freeze dried dog food and meat will cost \$300 per dog.
- The Iditarod Air Force will ship supplies to checkpoints for you for a flat fee of \$500.
- Figure in \$500 to cover any emergency or last minute supplies.

Please show all your work in the box below the question.

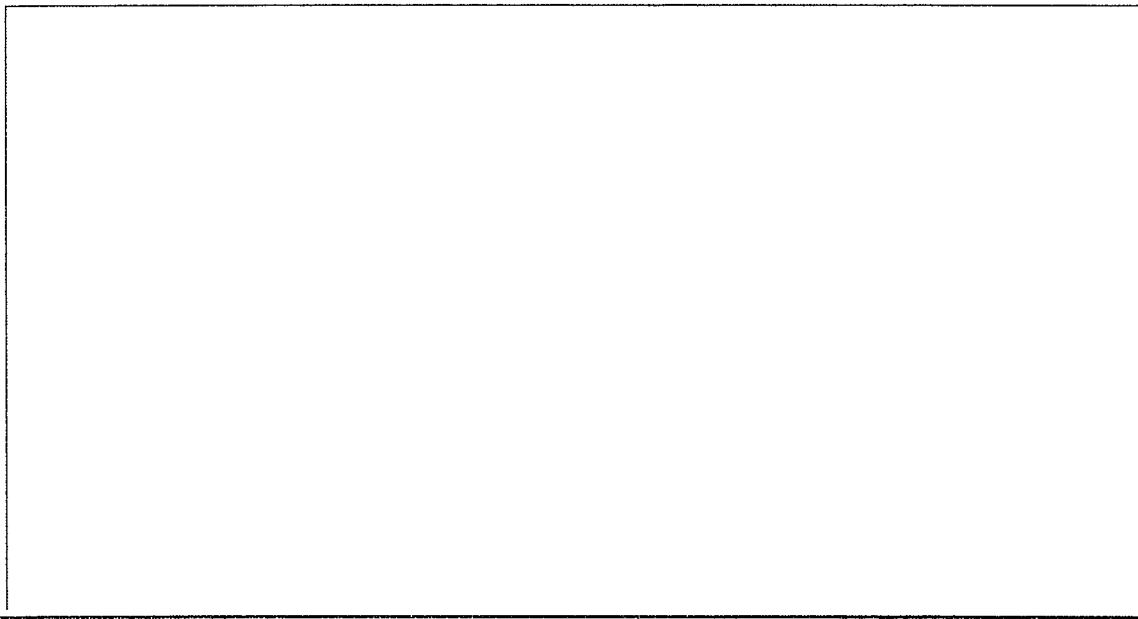
What is the total cost for the race?



If you break down the total cost, how much is it per mile? *how much per day?*



Do you think most mushers win enough money to pay for all of their expenses? If not, how might they pay for it?



In your opinion, why would someone invest so much time and money into running the Iditarod? Support your answer with reasons and/or examples.

In your opinion is there any event that you would spend this kind of money on and why would you.

