

## ***Children of the First People: Fresh Voices of Alaska's Native Kids***

Profiles by Tricia Brown

Photographs by Roy Corral

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Through interviews and photos of ten amazing kids, readers learn about the diversity of Alaska's Native cultures and their place in the world—their favorite traditions, foods, games, and more. For centuries, the ancestors of *these* children have thrived in the far north: Iñupiat, Eyak, Yup'ik, Haida, Athabaskan,

Unanga (Aleut), Tlingit, Alutiiq, Tsimshian, and Siberian Yupik. And while Alaska Native children are a lot like kids everywhere, their everyday lives balance modern culture with ancient traditions. Each kid's culture is unique, but all are proud to be Alaskan!

### **Reading/Writing/Language Arts**

Read *Children of the First People* and answer the following questions:

1. The kids in *Children of the First People* talk about how their lives are the same as (or different from) those of their parents and especially their grandparents. Check out other books about Alaska Natives of earlier generations. Ask your teacher or librarian (or search the Internet) for suggestions. How were long-ago times different from today? Give at least four examples including the time period. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.9)

2. Read a story about another Native American culture from the continental United States. (Alaskans call it the "Lower 48"!) Compare their traditions with those you see in *Children of the First People*. How are they similar and how are they different? Do you think it is important for people to remember their Native languages? Why? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1)

3. These ten kids live in a state that is one-fifth the size of all the Lower 48 states combined. Find the map of Alaska Native Homelands in the book. With a partner or group, research the variety of climates these Native groups live in. Together, create a map with symbols to display the various types of terrain and weather challenges. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4)

### **Writing**

1. Choose one of the ten cultures and describe how its traditional Native knowledge teaches kids in that region how to live well. What are the kids learning? Describe their traditional foods, clothing, games, and other activities. Give details, and make the reader feel like he or she is there, too. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.5)

2. Imagine you were part of a Tsimshian family of carvers. Writing as if you were a carver, explain why carving totem poles or masks is important to you and your clan. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3)

3. In the Glossary, the names for nearly all of the cultures translate to “The People” or “Person.” Why do you think these terms were so common? (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.9)

### Vocabulary

*Teacher note: Some of these terms may be above grade level for your group. Pre-teaching vocabulary in context should help students with comprehension.* (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4)



canoe

weaving

subsistence

skin-sewer

paddle

goggles

ancient

potlatch

clashed

Yup'ik drumming

ice fishing

carver

clacier

humpback whale

swishing

ferry

clan

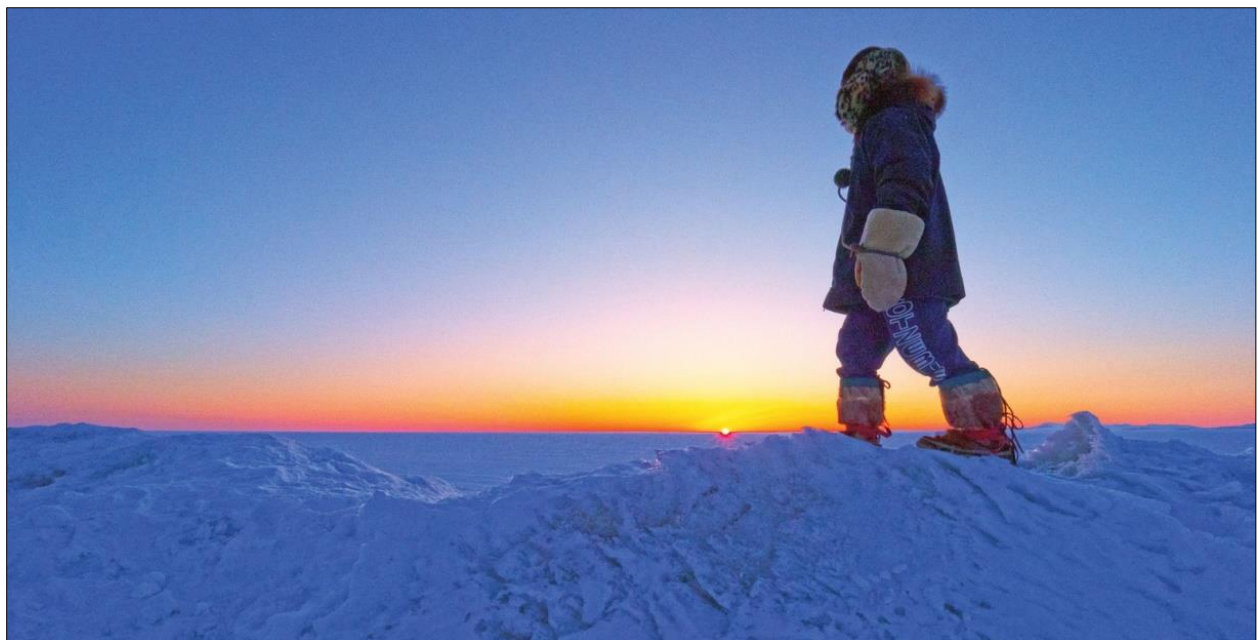
Break-up (the season)

mentor

salmon

1. With a partner, choose a term from the list. Act out the term or design a visual display to teach the word to your classmates.

2. Find a *synonym* for five words on the list. A synonym is a word that has the same—or nearly the same—meaning as another word.



### *Children of the First People Word Find*

Find these words from the book. They are hidden forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

<b>abandon</b>	<b>eagle</b>	<b>regalia</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>heritage</b>	<b>resources</b>
<b>art</b>	<b>iceworm</b>	<b>introduce</b>
<b>caribou</b>	<b>igloo</b>	<b>river</b>
<b>compete</b>	<b>island</b>	<b>Russia</b>
<b>crest</b>	<b>moiety</b>	<b>whale</b>
<b>culture</b>	<b>moose</b>	



g	o	m	o	e	a	k	q	v	r	z	a	e	s	o
q	f	w	t	o	c	r	c	i	i	w	b	u	e	y
p	i	e	x	j	d	u	t	o	v	k	a	a	c	c
g	h	e	g	u	c	u	d	o	e	r	n	k	r	e
c	u	l	t	u	r	e	c	o	r	m	d	s	u	x
m	r	o	w	e	c	i	y	o	r	q	o	a	o	n
d	g	f	m	r	n	t	e	e	m	t	n	l	s	r
u	h	n	e	y	e	g	g	i	s	p	n	a	e	b
p	o	s	m	i	a	a	t	r	s	o	e	i	r	r
s	t	b	o	t	l	r	c	b	v	l	o	t	v	m
o	j	m	i	i	r	u	s	s	i	a	a	m	e	o
i	b	r	a	r	a	e	l	g	a	e	y	n	b	o
q	e	b	q	t	a	u	k	l	a	x	c	f	d	l
h	g	u	h	s	z	c	d	w	h	a	l	e	y	g
x	e	r	f	n	i	j	q	x	f	t	x	f	h	i

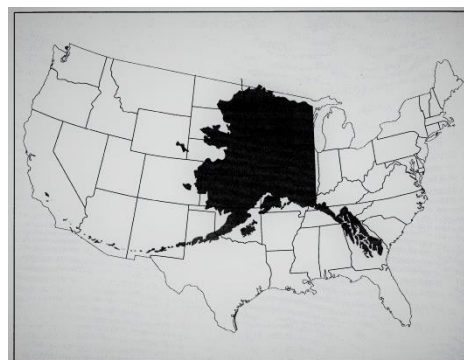


### Science/Natural History/Geography

See also the questions in the Reading and Writing sections. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8)

Research these questions in your library or online:

1. Describe six major geographical features that make Alaska unique. Explain where each can be found. Give details from your research.
2. Check out the map as you read and note where these kids live. Then look closely at the highways and waterways. List the forms of transportation that Alaskans use. After reading the stories, what is the common way for Alaska's Native people to travel during the summer months? Cite specifics from your research to support your position.
3. If it's a Monday in Alaska, what day of the week is it in Russia? Explain.



Alaska's actual size against the Lower 48 states.



#### About the Author

Tricia Brown is an author, editor, and book developer with ten children's books to her name. She is a popular speaker in schools, libraries, and events throughout Alaska and in the Lower 48. Her multimedia presentations, which include lessons on Alaska natural history and culture, regularly receive high praise from educators and parents. Tricia has published more than two dozen books on Alaska subjects, including favorites such as *Bobbie the Wonder Dog*, *Charlie and the Blanket Toss*, and *Children of the First People*. [www.triciabrownbooks.com](http://www.triciabrownbooks.com)



#### About the Photographer

Roy Corral is a veteran photographer whose work has been featured in dozens of newspapers, journals, and photo-illustrated books. Roy has explored Alaska's far regions from the Arctic to the Inside Passage and the remote Pribilof Islands, but admits it would take many lifetimes to experience the vastness of the Last Frontier. The diversity of Roy's photographic work can be seen in cultural murals and galleries such as those in the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, both in Anchorage. Find him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/roy.corral1](https://www.facebook.com/roy.corral1)

#### About the Publisher



Alaska Northwest Books®

#### Word Find Solution:

g	o	m	e	a	k	v	r	z	a	e	s	o		
q	f	w	t	o	e	r	c	i	i	w	b	u	e	y
p	i	e	x	j	d	u	t	o	v	k	a	a	c	c
g	h	e	g	u	c	u	d	o	e	r	n	k	r	e
c	u	l	t	u	r	e	c	o	r	m	d	s	u	x
m	r	o	w	e	c	i	y	o	r	q	o	a	o	n
d	g	f	m	r	n	t	e	e	m	t	n	l	s	r
u	h	n	e	y	e	g	g	i	s	p	n	a	e	b
p	o	s	m	i	a	a	t	r	s	c	e	i	r	r
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o	j	m	i	r	u	s	s	i	a	a	m	e	o	
i	b	r	a	r	a	e	l	q	a	e	y	n	b	o
q	e	b	q	t	a	u	k	l	a	x	c	f	o	l
n	g	u	h	s	z	c	d	w	h	a	l	e	y	g
x	e	r	f	n	i	j	q	x	f	t	x	f	h	i