

Information Quest: Part II

Would a dogsled team be necessary to respond to an outbreak of an illness in Nome today? This activity will guide you to explore websites that will help you compare details in the article "The Race Against Death" with life today.

Directions: Go to the websites given to find the answer to each question. Then respond to the writing prompt below.

A. www.visitnomealaska.com/index.html

1. How many people live in Nome, Alaska, today? _____
2. Who were the original inhabitants of the region? How does their culture contribute to Nome today?

B. www.visitnomealaska.com/getting-to-nome.html

3. How many flights from Anchorage to Nome are there per day? _____
4. In what other ways could you get to Nome? _____

C. teacher.scholastic.com/activities/iditarod/about_alaska/index.asp?article=about_alaska

5. What is the main purpose of mushing in Alaska today? _____
6. What are the most popular means of transportation in Alaska? _____

D. www.mayoclinic.com/health/diphtheria/DS00495

7. What are typical symptoms of diphtheria? _____

8. Why is diphtheria extremely rare in the United States today? _____

Writing prompt: In 1925, teams of dogsleds and their mushers were needed to respond to an outbreak of diphtheria in Nome, Alaska. Why would such a response almost certainly be unnecessary today? Cite at least two reasons in your answer.