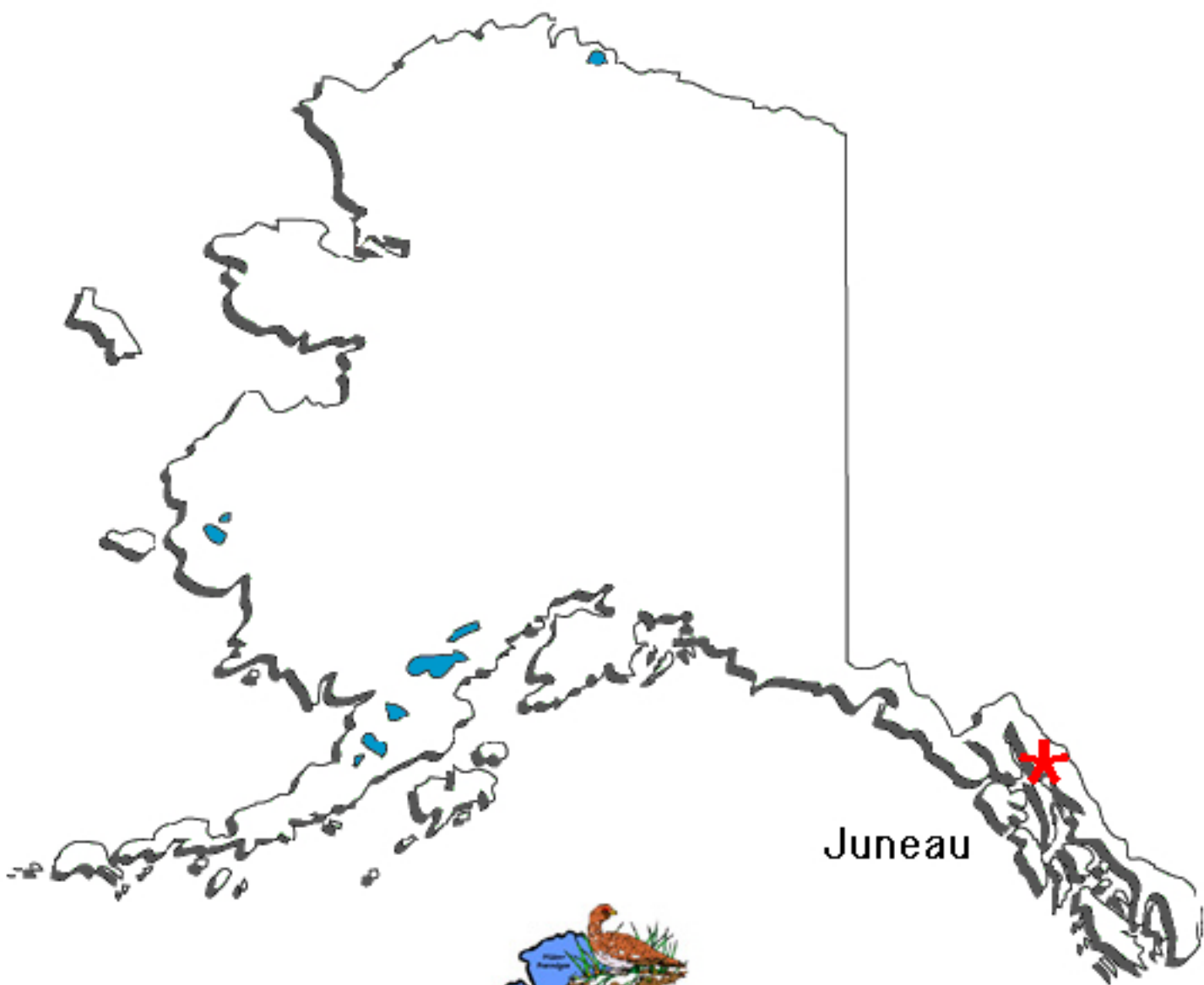




Alaska



Name _____

Date _____



Alaska

**Welcome to the state of Alaska.
We hope you enjoy your visit.**

HISTORY

For thousands of years Eskimos and Indians have lived in Alaska. It is believed by geologists that the first inhabitants walked from Asia to North America. Vitus Bering was a Danish explorer for Russia. He sighted Alaska in 1741, and went ashore.

Many Russian fur traders went to Alaska to collect furs. The first permanent Russian settlement was at Three Saints Bay, on Kodiak Island, in 1784. Russia made Sitka the capital of Alaska in 1806. Russia ruled Alaska for over 100 years.

William H Seward, the Secretary of State of the United States, wanted to buy Alaska from Russia. Many people laughed at Seward and called Alaska, "Sewards Ice Box". Alaska was sold to the United States on October 18, 1867 for \$7,200,000.

The discovery of gold in the 1880's brought thousands of people from the lower 48 states to Alaska. New towns sprang up. On January 3, 1959, Alaska became the forty-ninth state.

CAPITAL

Juneau is the capital of Alaska. It is in southeast Alaska, in the Alaskan Panhandle, at the base of Mt. Juneau. The city was founded during the gold rush. The city was named after Joe Juneau, a gold prospector.



STATE FLAG

The state flag of Alaska was adopted in 1927. Seven gold stars form the Big Dipper on a blue background. A gold star in the north corner stands for the North Star, and represents the far north location of Alaska.





Alaska

STATE TREE

The Sitka spruce is the state tree of Alaska. It is an important commercial tree. It can grow to over 300 feet high.



It is an evergreen. The cones grow straight down. Their needles are four sided and grow in spirals around the branches.

STATE BIRD

The state bird of Alaska is the willow ptarmigan. It has short feathers on its feet.



The feathers on the feet help the bird in the snow.

The feathers of the ptarmigan are black and reddish brown in the summer and turn white in the winter.

STATE FLOWER

The forget-me-not is the state flower of Alaska. It has light green leaves with hairy stems.

The flowers are usually sky blue with yellow centers. They grow in clusters and are small.





Alaska

SIZE

Alaska is the largest of all the states. It covers an area of 586,400 square miles. The length of the mainland is about 1,500 miles, and the greatest width of the mainland is 1,200 miles.

LOCATION

- Alaska is bordered on the east by the Yukon Territory and British Columbia.
- The Pacific and Arctic Ocean surround Alaska on the west, south, and north.



CLIMATE

Alaska is so large that it has a variety of climates. The southern coast has a fairly mild climate. It has heavy snowfalls and short summers.



The interior has a colder climate and warm dry summers.

The northern section of Alaska is always covered with snow.



Alaska

TOPOGRAPHY

Alaska is very mountainous. The mountain ranges include: the Coast Mountains, St Elias Range, and Brook Range.

The largest area is the Central Uplands and Plains. It is a rolling plain with plateaus, valleys, and streams.

There are many islands off the coast of Alaska.



INDUSTRY

Oil and natural gas are the main industries in Alaska. They were discovered on the North Slope in 1968. The Alaskan pipeline was built from 1974-1977. The pipeline carries oil across the state.



Fishing is also an important industry in Alaska. It has the largest fishing industry in the United States. Many people are employed in fish packing and the processing of fish.

Lumber is a valuable industry. Alaska produces much lumber and has an abundant supply of trees. Farming is of little value because of the climate and terrain.

Many people work for the government in Alaska. The United States has developed military bases in the state.

Tourism has become a major industry. People have flocked to Alaska to see the scenic beauty, to hike, fish, and hunt.



Alaska

NATURAL RESOURCES

Alaska is rich in natural resources. Gold has been one of Alaska's largest minerals produced. Other minerals include: coal, magnetite iron, chrome, tungsten, and asbestos. Oil and natural gas have become the largest minerals produced.

Alaska has vast forests. The hemlock and the Sitka spruce produce the most lumber commercially. Other important trees include: Alaska cedar, birch, and western red cedar.



Plant life in Alaska includes over 600 varieties of wildflowers. Trees grow in abundance throughout the state. A variety of grasses grow in the river valleys.

Alaska has the world's richest catches of salmon and halibut. They are caught off the shores of Alaska. Alaska has large quantities of shrimp, herring, crabs, cod, and clams. A variety of fish are caught in the rivers and streams of the state.

Alaska has a wide variety of animals. The most well known are the seals, Kodiak and polar bears, musk oxen, and reindeer. Alaska has millions of waterfowl and birds of prey.

WATERWAYS

Alaska has a coast line of 6,640 miles. When all the bays and inlets are included it measures 33,904 miles.

Alaska's most important river is the Yukon River. It is 1,979 miles long. The Yukon is the fourth largest river in the United States.

Alaska has thousands of lakes and streams. The largest lake is Lake Iliamna. It is 60 miles long.





Alaska

What have you learned?

Write the correct number in the blank. Circle the correct answer.

1. Russia made _____ the capital in 1806.

- 1) Kodiak
- 2) Sitka
- 3) Three Saints Bay

2. Alaska became the forty-eighth state.

true false

3. The capital of Alaska is _____.

Fairbanks Anchorage Juneau

4. The _____ spruce is the state tree of Alaska.

- 1) Kodiak
- 2) blue
- 3) Sitka



5. The state bird is the partridge.

true false

6. Alaska ranks _____ in size among the states.

first second third

7. British Columbia and the Yukon Territory border Alaska on the _____.

- 1) north
- 2) west
- 3) east



Alaska

What have you learned?

Write the correct number in the blank. Circle the correct answer.

8. The northern section of Alaska is always snow-covered.
true false
9. There are many _____ off the coast of Alaska.
lakes islands glaciers
10. Alaska has the _____ fishing industry in the United States.
1) largest
2) smallest
3) only
11. Farming is of little value because of the climate and terrain.
true false
12. Natural gas and _____ have become the largest minerals produced.
tungsten oil coal
13. There are over _____ hundred varieties of wildflowers in Alaska.
1) seven
2) six
3) eight
14. Alaska's most important river is the Alaskan River.
true false





Alaska

Spelling

Print the correct spelling of the word.

1. people
peepel
peopal _____

2. feethars
feathars
feathers _____

3. plateaus
platoes
plattoos _____

4. shrrmp
shramp
shrimp _____

5. exolorer
exxplorer
explorer _____

6. gold
good
gllod _____



Alaska

Word Unscramble

Unscramble each word. Print the word on the line.

1. eprusc _____

2. dreinere _____

3. neJuau _____

4. onaslm _____

5. hsgnifi _____

6. rebuml _____



Alaska

Find the nickname of this state. Write it on the line.

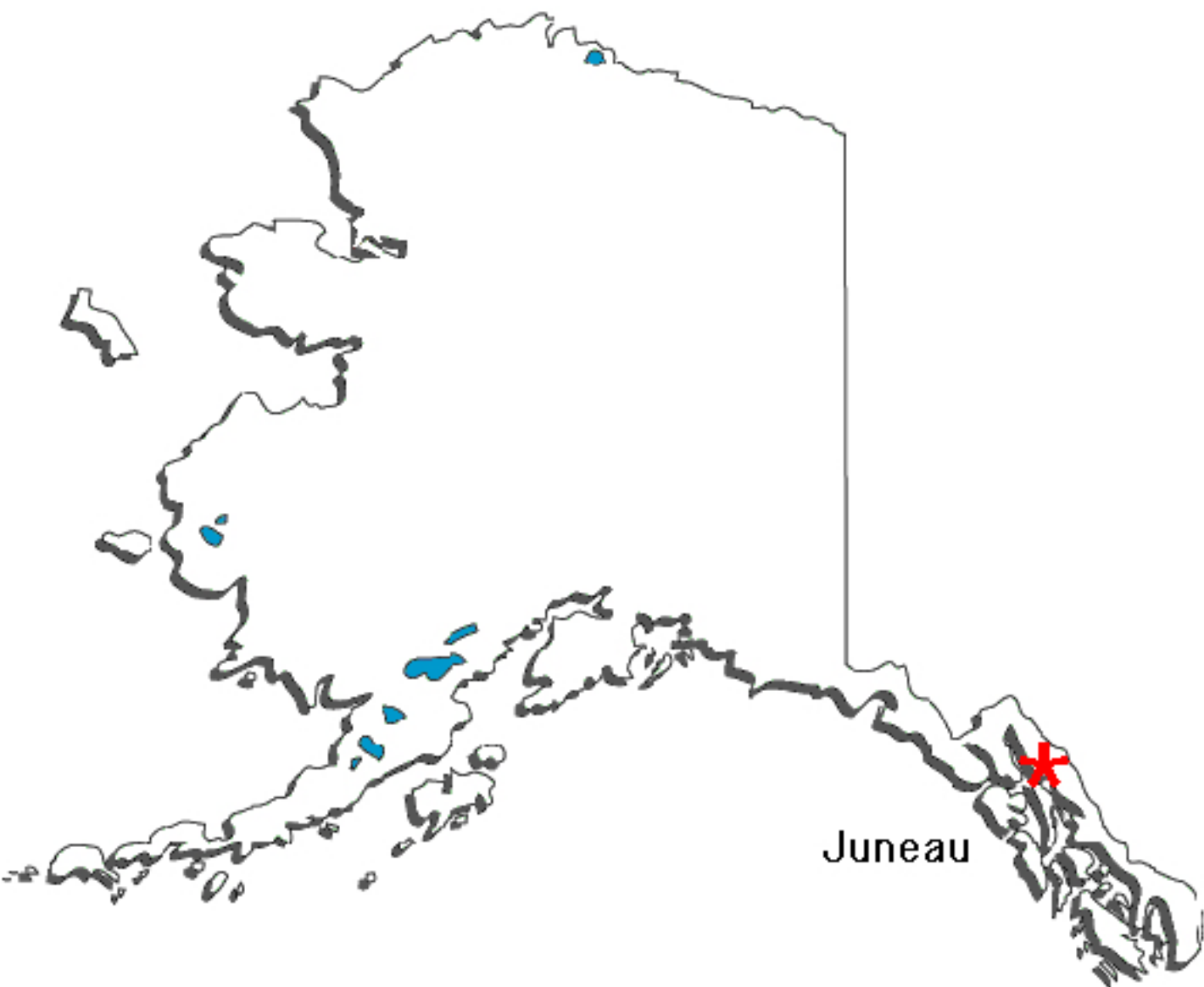


Use reference material to find out more about this state.
Write the information in complete sentences on the lines below.



Alaska

Map With Capital





Alaska

Answers

Page 6

2
false
Juneau
3
false
first
3

Page 7

true
islands
1
true
oil
2
false

Page 8

people
feathers
plateaus
shrimp
explorer
gold

Page 9

spruce
reindeer
Juneau
salmon
fishing
lumber

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