

KENAI FJORDS

Where the mountains meet their reflection.



The view has a backstory.

ICE IS ALSO HABITAT

Harbor seals use floating ice as resting and pupping platforms. A quiet chunk of ice may be occupied; binoculars reveal what a closer approach could disturb.

A SHORELINE WITH LAYERS

Listen for the change from sheltered forest to exposed ocean. Notice fresh water pouring from the valleys into salt water. What seems like one blue scene is a meeting of habitats.

PEOPLE BELONG IN THE STORY

Sugpiaq, also called Alutiiq, and Eyak peoples have deep ties to the Chugach region. Start with contemporary Native-led accounts of the coast rather than imagining it as an empty wilderness.

A QUESTION TO CARRY

**Which choice helped everyone participate in the boat day?
What would you repeat?**

LINE STUDY / VISTA + BOTANICAL DETAILS

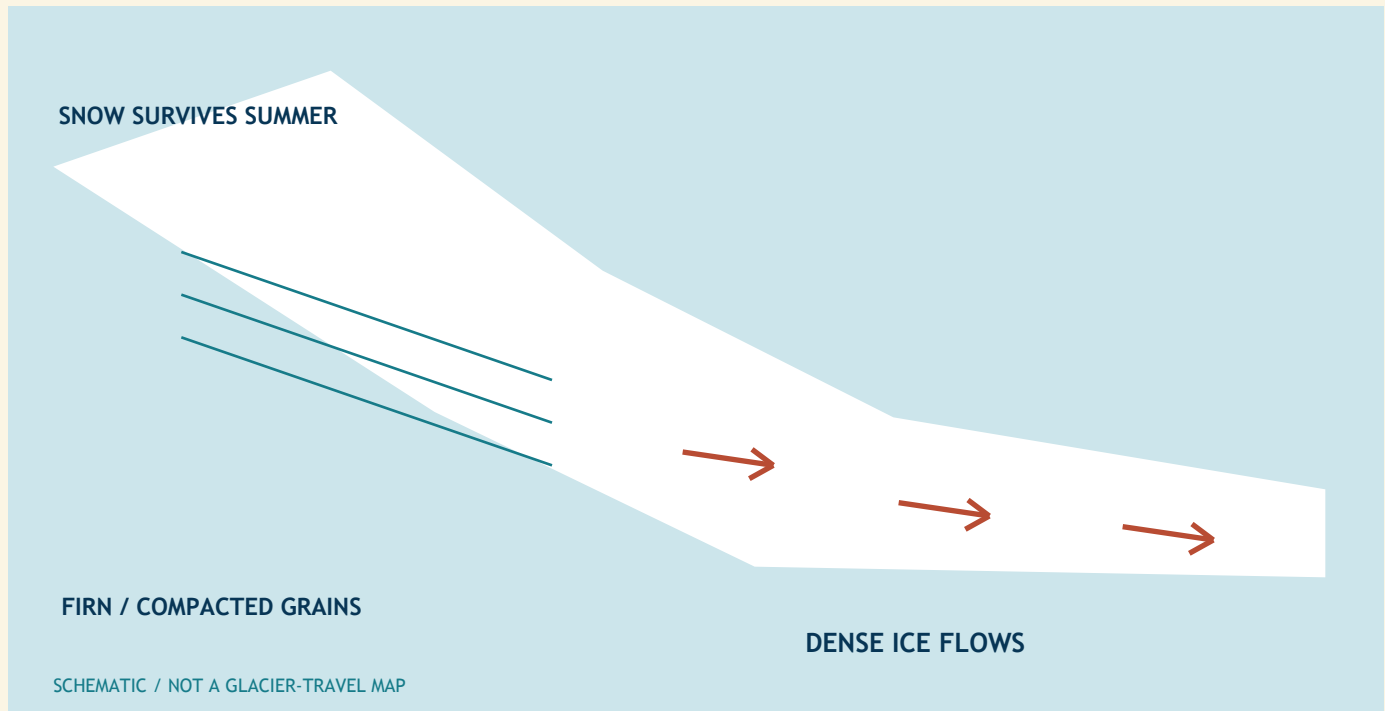
Give the fjord your own forecast.



A distant glacier, a dark mountain edge, and foreground lupines. Try three shades of blue before adding any other color. Use the line study as a quiet observation exercise; there is no need to finish it.

HOW A GLACIER FORMS / AND WHY IT MOVES

Snow has a long memory.



01 / ACCUMULATE

Where more snow remains than is lost over many years, older layers are buried. Snow grains compact into firn and eventually dense glacier ice.

02 / FLOW

Under its own weight, the ice deforms and can move over the ground. The surface may crack where stresses change.

03 / GAIN AND LOSE

Snow adds mass; melting and other losses remove it. The terminus can retreat while the remaining glacier still flows. One calving event alone does not measure the climate trend.

READ FURTHER [24] [25]

Sources and live links: pages 62, 63 + 66

These are homelands. In the present tense.

MANY PEOPLES, MANY CONTEMPORARY LIVES

Alaska Native is a broad term, not the name of one culture. Communities have distinct languages, histories and governments. People live in villages and cities, work in many fields, and carry traditions forward in changing ways.

MATCH THE PLACE TO THE PEOPLE

Begin with Dena'ina perspectives around Anchorage and Lake Clark, Ahtna perspectives in the Copper River region, Sugpiaq/Alutiiq and Eyak accounts of the Chugach coast, and Tlingit voices in Glacier Bay. These are starting points, not complete cultural boundary maps.

FOOD CAN HOLD RELATIONSHIPS

Hunting, fishing, gathering and sharing food can carry family knowledge and responsibilities. Learn what subsistence means locally instead of treating it as an old practice that disappeared.

CULTURE ALSO LOOKS FORWARD

The Alaska Native Heritage Center and Sealaska Heritage share language, arts and education in the present. Ask what people are working to sustain for the next generation, as well as what came before.

A useful question: What would I understand differently if I began with the people who call this place home?

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION / LEAVE ROOM FOR UNCERTAINTY

A sighting is a beginning.

Describe what you saw before you name it. A careful question belongs in a field journal.

PLACE / DATE / WEATHER

SHAPE / MOVEMENT / BEHAVIOR

MY IDENTIFICATION + HOW CERTAIN I AM

A QUESTION FOR THE NATURALIST
