Guide for
Litnawisetet—Teachers

Alutiiq
MUSEUM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
REPOSITORY
Guide for
Litnawistet–Teachers
First Edition
About the Alutiiq Museum
We are a non-profit organization founded in 1995. Representatives of Kodiak Alutiiq organizations govern the museum with funding from charitable contributions, memberships, grants, contracts, and sales.

Our Mission
The Alutiiq Museum preserves and shares the heritage and culture of the Alutiiq people.

Our Vision
Celebrating heritage through living culture.

Our Educational Philosophy
Accurate knowledge of the past is essential to the health of the Kodiak community. History is a resource that can help people confront difficult issues, engage in discussion, and consider multiple perspectives. The Alutiiq Museum’s educational programs provide an honest exploration of the forces that have shaped today’s Alutiiq culture and they help Alutiiq traditions thrive in the modern world. Our programs are open to everyone. We are committed to creating respect and enthusiasm for Alutiiq culture among people of all heritages.

Guide for Litnawistet—Teachers was produced by the Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository with support from the Munartet Project and funding from the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

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The photographs in this guide are from the Alutiiq Museum’s collections. Images of embroidery are from clothing in the National Museum of Finland, Etholén Collection, photographed by Sven Haakanson Jr. Petroglyph images are from Cape Alitak, courtesy Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.
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Before the Alutiiq Museum opened there were few places for educators to learn about the Alutiiq world. Information about Kodiak’s Native heritage was hard to access, stored in the knowledge of Elders, archaeological sites, and distant museums. Today, the Alutiiq Museum provides accurate accessible information on Alutiiq heritage and numerous opportunities for cultural exploration. And we welcome people of all heritages to participate in our programs.

As educators, you are important partners in our work. When you introduce students to the history of their home, you invite them to see the world in new ways. You challenge assumptions and help students consider how the past has shaped the present.

We developed this resource guide to assist you. It is designed to connect you with the museum’s services and provide ideas for collaboration. As you read through this guide, please remember it is a starting point. Our staff can help you tailor a visit to the museum, design a classroom project that supports your curriculum, or facilitate a research project. Please let us know how we can work together.

Taikina – You Should Come,

April Laktonen Counceller, Executive Director
april@alutiiqmuseum.org

Say Hello—Cama’i

Cama’i, a traditional Alutiiq greeting, is a friendly, welcoming word used much like the English term “Hi.” “Cama’i,” you might say as you meet a friend on the street or enter a room full of people. Alutiiq people often greet each other with this familiar word. To many it symbolizes pride in Native culture and a continuing respect for Alutiiq, Kodiak’s Native language.

Pronunciation: Cha-MYE
Tours

Kula’irluni – Visit
The Alutiiq Museum provides free tours for educational groups and classes of all ages. Our guided gallery visits take about an hour and help students investigate Alutiiq history, language, and culture. Whether you are studying sea mammals, geology, weather, or storytelling, our experts can design a tour especially for your group.

Preview
Educators are invited to visit the museum before bringing a class. Stop by to develop ideas for discussion, consider activities, and talk with our staff. There is no charge to preview our gallery.

Virtual Tour
Visit roundme.com and search for Alutiiq Museum to explore 365° views of our exhibits. You can also download a free Roundme app for your smart phone.

Scheduling
To insure we can accommodate your group, all tours require advance scheduling. Please contact us to arrange your group visit at info@alutiiqmuseum.org, 1-844-425-8844.

The museum is wheelchair accessible and we have public bathrooms and a drinking fountain. Please let us know if we can provide additional accommodations. For groups with younger children, we recommend bringing one adult for every eight students.

Museum Manners
The museum is a special place with special objects. For the safety of our visitors, staff, and collections please ask your group to follow these simple rules:

• Please walk. No running.
• Leave bags, umbrellas, etc. in the rotunda outside the museum.
• No food, drinks, or gum.
• Do not touch objects or displays, unless invited.
• Stay with your group.
Exhibits

Explore our gallery! Our exhibits tell the story of the Alutiiq people—from the distant past to the present day. Archaeological discoveries, Alutiiq language materials, photographs, objects, and artwork fill displays on history, subsistence practices, social life, and spirituality. We have both long-term and rotating displays.

Qayat—Kayaks
From driftwood and animal skins Alutiiq people created swift, reliable boats expertly designed for Kodiak’s windy waters. Historic and modern objects illustrate the gear essential for every paddler, including a 150-year-old Alutiiq kayak on loan from Harvard University.

Wamwik—A Place to Play
Our youngest visitors explore with their hands in our children’s corner. This replica of a traditional Alutiiq sod house transports children into the Alutiiq world with toys, puzzles, books, and animal puppets. This is a great place for smaller groups to sit and talk about their museum visit.

Pililuki—Make Them! (until January 2019)
Explore the ways Alutiiq ancestors made and used pictures in our exhibit on Alutiiq graphic art. Then make your own artwork inspired by Alutiiq traditions. Visitors can color visors and headdresses, create an incised pebble, and draw family stories.

Historic kayak courtesy the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University
Activities

Educational groups can participate in a gallery activity upon request. Please schedule in advance.

Find it!
Encourage your students to learn from exhibits with a scavenger hunt. We’ll provide pencils, clip boards, and clues that lead students through our displays to answer questions about Alutiiq culture. True or False—both men and women in Alutiiq society knew how to sew? Find the answer in our kayak display.

Touch It!
We have a selection of prehistoric artifacts that can be respectfully handled. Students can learn about Alutiiq technology and manufacturing by examining stone and bone objects from ancestral settlements. Our experts will explain the tools and their uses.

Watch It!
Our short videos (4 to 8 minutes each) teach visitors about rock art, wild foods, Alutiiq dance, archaeological sites, and other topics with the help of Alutiiq culture bearers. Videos are also available on the Alutiiq Museum Vimeo channel at vimeo.com/alutiiqmuseum.

Behind the Scenes
Educational groups can also tour our laboratory and collections storage room. Behind the scenes visits help students learn about museums. What is a museum? How do museums care for objects? Why are museums important? We can explore these questions together.
Working with a Culture Bearer

In the Alutiiq world, every adult is a teacher and children learn by working closely with family members and mentors. Bring this style of teaching to your classroom by inviting a culture bearer to lead an activity. There are many knowledgeable Alutiiq people who enjoy working with students and many possible activities.

- Ask an artist to lead a carving, sewing, or painting project.
- Invite an Alutiiq speaker to teach Alutiiq language greetings or songs.
- Go on a field trip with a local harvester to learn about Alutiiq plantlore.
- Cook a traditional dish with an Alutiiq chef.
- Work with a dancer to choreograph a class performance.
- Interview an Elder about local history.

To discuss your project and identify a culture bearer please contact Molly Odell (molly@alutiiqmuseum.org; 844-425-8844, x14). We will facilitate.

Tips for a successful visit
Culture bearers are esteemed members of the Alutiiq community and should be treated with the greatest respect.

- Communicate your request carefully, clearly, and well in advance.
- Provide a comfortable seat for your visitor. This is especially important for Elders.
- Schedule plenty of time for the visit, so the activity isn’t rushed and the culture bearer can share at a reasonable pace.
- Prepare your students to be respectful listeners.
- Do not expect your visitor to assist with classroom management.
- Make sure your activity is respectful of Alutiiq culture. Ask us if you are unsure.
- Offer a modest stipend or gift of thanks.

Say Thanks - 
Quyanaa
Quyanaa is the Alutiiq word for thank you.
Pronunciation: Koo-YAW-nah.

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Check it out!
Bring Alutiiq culture to your classroom, camp, program, or event with our traveling education boxes. Each box explores an aspect of Alutiiq heritage with hands-on activities that can be adjusted for many ages. Materials come in a sturdy box with instructions.

Boxes

Who are the Alutiiq? – An introduction to the Alutiiq homeland, language, customs, and history.

Subsistence – Pieces of fur, bone, tooth, stone, spruce root, and other natural resources supplement information on Alutiiq harvesting.

Stories and Games – Alutiiq darts, throwing discs, and die with instructions, and a print out of traditional tales.

Saving our Alutiiq Language – Language learning tools (doll board game, flash cards), audio and video resources, and an Alutiiq dictionary.

Alutiiq Dance – Alutiiq music CD, dance DVD, rattle, headdress, and directions to craft student headdresses.

Petroglyphs – Stamps and clay tablets for making petroglyph art, with cultural information.

NEW! Mask Box – Learn about Alutiiq masks—their design, use, and purpose, then make miniature masks. This box has directions for carving masks from soap and for painting wooden masks.

NEW! Pililuki–Make Them – Explore Alutiiq arts with hands on drawing and coloring activities.

Anyone may check out an education box for up to two weeks. There is no charge to use the materials. If you need shipping, the museum pays the outbound shipping and the borrower pays to ship the box back. Borrowers are responsible for returning the box and its contents on time and in good condition.

Reserve A Box
Use our online reservation form to reserve a box for use by your class.

alutiiqmuseum.org/learn/handouts-teacher-resources/education-boxes
Events

Craft Saturday
One Saturday per month we host a walk-in craft activity. Family-friendly crafts encourage visitors to explore Alutiiq culture with their hands. Projects are suitable for all ages and there is a small, suggested donation for supplies. Make Alutiiq language valentines, create a paper mask, sew felt ornaments, or color Alaskan animals. There is a new activity each month.

First Friday Art Walk
On the first Friday of every month, the Alutiiq Museum provides free admission from 5:00-7:00 pm and opportunities to meet artists and view local artwork.

Workshops
Alutiiq artists lead art activities, sharing everything from carvings and beading to painting and jewelry design. Workshops require advance registration and payment of a materials fee.

Volunteering
Museum volunteers give tours, set up for events, care for collections, and participate in research. By volunteering, students can learn about Alutiiq heritage and explore the museum profession. Unpaid internships can also be arranged for students who wish to pursue a project or shadow a staff member. Volunteering starts with a short application. Contact Jeff Garcie to learn more, jeff@alutiiqmuseum.org, 844-425-8844, x19.

Have you ever wanted to be an archaeologist?
Volunteers can work as members of an archaeological field crew, studying Kodiak prehistory with our professional researchers. No previous experience necessary. Participants must be at least 14 years old. Students can earn high school credit. Tours of the dig site can be arranged for groups.
INTERACTIVE DIGITAL STORY BOOKS

Qbooks
Eight digital story books produced with the Native Village of Afognak that explore Alutiiq language and traditions with interactive features. Available as free apps on the iTunes store. Recommended for elementary school students.

FOR YOUNG READERS

Uswitusqaq’s Dream
A shaman’s dream, a journey by kayak, a hidden bay, sea otters, and an earthquake; these are the ingredients of this children’s novel about Kodiak Island in the 1800s. The story follows Alutiiq boys on a journey of self-discovery, with descriptions of Kodiak’s natural environment and details of Alutiiq culture and history. Recommended for readers in grades 3 – 7.

FOR OLDER STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Kal’unek–From Karluk
This history of Karluk village transports readers to the late prehistoric era, and examines village life with archaeological data, including pictures of Alutiiq objects and artwork.

Naut’staarpet–Our Plants, A Kodiak Alutiiq Plantlore
Explore Kodiak’s forest and meadows with this colorful guide to Alutiiq plant harvesting and use.

Igaruacirpet–Our Way of Making Designs
From petroglyphs to tattoos Alutiiq people used pictures to tell stories, and share information. Learn about Alutiiq graphic arts in this illustrated guide.

Traditions
A 60-page paperback with one page answers to our visitors’ most common questions. A great introduction to the Alutiiq world with information on where to learn more.

The Alutiiq Word of the Week–15 Year Compilation
What is the origin of the word Kodiak? How do you bend wood to make a bowl? Why is it bad luck to speak about hunting bears? This paperback book has the answers and many more. Over 470 entries pair an Alutiiq word and sentence with a short lesson.
Online Resources

It has never been easier to access Alutiiq traditions online. There are many web resources that can help you connect with Alutiiq culture, language and history.

**Alutiiq Museum Website** – alutiiqmuseum.org
- Online exhibits
- Introduction to Alutiiq culture
- Interactive Alutiiq alphabet
- Videos, handouts, craft activities

**Alutiiq Education Website** – alutiiqeducation.org
A clearinghouse of information for educators featuring:
- Alutiiq core values
- Alutiiq cultural history
- Storytelling
- Bibliography with downloadable resources

**Alutiiq Language Website** – alutiiqlanguage.org
Resources for Alutiiq language learners featuring:
- Dictionary of Alutiiq terms
- Word lists linked to audio files
- Songs
- Storybooks & workbooks
- K-5 Elementary curriculum lessons
- Teaching & learning resources

**Alutiiq Word of the Week**
Sign up for our weekly lessons on all things Alutiiq. Each lesson examines a cultural topic with an Alutiiq word, sentence, and photograph. Lessons can be delivered by email and we post them on the museum’s website with a recording of an Alutiiq speaker.

All lessons are available in our searchable online archive at: alutiiqmuseum.org/learn/word-of-the-week-archive.

The Alutiiq Word of the Week is also podcast. Subscribe for free on iTunes.
Working with Collections

The Alutiiq Museum cares for collections that document the Alutiiq experience. There are more than 250,000 objects and photographs in our professional repository. Researchers of all ages can study these collections and access our library. All you need is an appointment. To schedule a research visit, please contact Collections Manager, Amanda Lancaster, at 844-425-8844, x22.

**Permanent Collections**
- Archaeological Materials
- Archival Materials
- Contemporary Artwork
- Film and Audio Recordings
- Ethnographic Objects
- Photographs
- Natural History Specimens
- Teaching Materials

**Teaching Collection**
Artifacts from our teaching collection can be checked out for respectful use in the classroom or at an event. A variety of stone and bone tools are available for hands on exploration and come packaged in a sturdy case for transport.

**Library Collection**
The Alutiiq Museum library has more than 1,700 books, 11,000 photographs, and 1,400 articles and manuscripts. Although we do not loan our library materials, researchers can use them in the museum.

**Digital Art Gallery**
Browse our collection of contemporary artwork online. Select an artist to see examples of their work: alutiiqmuseum.org/explore/collections/types-of-collections/contemporary-art

*Sea Lion–Wiinaq, painting by Lena Amason, 2006, 16 x 13 inches, AM570:10. Purchased with support from the Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund.*
Say Goodbye - Tang’rciqamken

Saying goodbye in Alutiiq is a lot harder than saying camaii—hello!

Camaii, is a simple, one word greeting that people remember easily. To say farewell, however, you must use a full Alutiiq phrase. The common leave-taking salutation is Tang’rciqamken, which literally means, “I’ll see you.” Fluent speakers add a variety of endings to this phrase, like camiku, which means “sometime.”

Tang’rciqamken camiku. – I will see you again sometime.
Where to Find Us
215 Mission Road, First Floor
Kodiak, AK 99615
TEL 844.425.8844
FAX 866.335.7767

Gallery Hours
Tuesday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday Noon – 4:00 pm
Sunday Closed
Monday By appointment