

Alutiiq Museum Scavenger Hunt

Grade: 3rd - 12th

Time: 1-2 days

Lesson Description: Students will watch the Alutiiq Museum virtual gallery tour and/or visit the Alutiiq Museum in person to learn about Kodiak's Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people.



Photo: Alutiiq Museum, 2025

Kit Includes:

- Alutiiq Museum Guided Video Tour Video:
- Guide for *Litnawistet*—Teachers Exhibits Guide
- Scavenger Hunt Objects Worksheet
- Scavenger Hunt Worksheet

Materials Needed:

- Computer (virtual) or clipboard (in-person)
- Pen or pencil

Alutiiq Vocabulary	Art Elements	Art Principles	Content Connections
<i>Ciqlluaq</i> —Sod Houses <i>Nacaq</i> —Headdress <i>Qayaq</i> —Kayak <i>Kanaglluk</i> —Gutskin jacket <i>Naniq</i> —Oil lamp <i>Ulukaq</i> —Ulu <i>Cama'i</i> —Hello <i>Tuyuq</i> —Chief <i>Pikiyutaq</i> —Gift, Present <i>Uksuq</i> —Winter <i>KaanaRiiq, FaapRiikaaq</i> —Cannery <i>Tamuuq</i> —Dry Fish <i>Taryuq, Sauliq</i> —Salt <i>Iniluku</i> —Hang (to) <i>Quliyanguaq</i> —Story <i>Unigkuaq</i> —Legend <i>Mun'arta</i> —Artist <i>Maas'kaa, Giinaruaq, Giinaquq</i> —Mask <i>Qayarpak</i> —Double-hatched Qayaq <i>Skauluq (N), Skuuluq (S)</i> —School <i>Agayuwik</i> —Church <i>Qenaluni</i> —Sick <i>Unguwallriq</i> —Animal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shape <input type="checkbox"/> Color <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Value <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Texture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Space/ Perspective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern <input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm/ Movement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proportion/ Scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balance <input type="checkbox"/> Unity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emphasis	Social Studies—Local History, Culture & Community; Alaska, the Changing State AK Reading Standards AK Writing Standards World Language

Objectives and Assessment Criteria:

Students will learn...

- How to navigate museum exhibits and retain information.
- What a museum is and why museums are valuable.
- Introductory information about the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people.

Cultural Relevance:

The Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people are Alaska Native people. They are maritime people whose coastal homelands include Prince William Sound, the outer Kenai Peninsula, the Kodiak Archipelago, and the Alaska Peninsula. Alutiiq ancestors have lived in this region for over 7,500 years. The Alutiiq share many cultural practices with the other coastal peoples, particularly the Unanga^{x̂} of the Aleutian Chain and the Yup'ik of the Bering Sea coast. Anthropologists believe these cultural similarities reflect a distant but common ancestry. At the time of European colonization, there were distinct regional groups of Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people, each speaking a slightly different dialect of the Alutiiq language. The Alutiiq Museum preserves and shares the heritage and living culture of the Alutiiq people. In the museum's gallery, exhibits help visitors of all ages, heritages, and abilities learn about the Alutiiq world. The exhibits are organized by different sections and topics. Each section was developed in an intentional way for people to educate themselves on the various topics. The topics include history, cultural arts, community, spirituality, language, people's connections to the land, resources, and colonialism. The exhibits on colonialism explore the impacts of Russian and American settlement on Alutiiq communities. They illustrate both how Alutiiq culture changed and how an Alutiiq way of living persists. The museum works to make Alutiiq culture accessible to a broad audience. To help people everywhere access the museum's exhibits, we created a virtual gallery tour led by knowledgeable staff members. You can visit the museum in person or enjoy a tour of the gallery online.

Create:

- Ask the students if they have ever been to a museum? Have they visited the Alutiiq Museum? Discuss the role of museums in general and then the mission of the Alutiiq Museum specifically—*to preserve and share the heritage and living culture of the Alutiiq people*. Why do we have museums? Why would there be a museum all about Kodiak's Native people?
 - Follow up by asking what knowledge they have about the Native people of Kodiak Island. Who are the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people? After the discussion, have the students watch the Alutiiq Museum's guided video tour of exhibits and/or schedule an in-person tour of the museum's gallery.
 - Provide students with the scavenger hunt worksheets to fill out as they watch and/or tour the gallery learning from the exhibits. Depending on the age of the students determine which worksheet best fits your class. For younger students, we suggest the scavenger hunt objects worksheet. For older students, we suggest the scavenger hunt worksheet.
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Close and Assessment:

- Students know how to navigate the Alutiiq Museum exhibits and find and retain information.
 - Students learned what a museum is and why museums are valuable.
 - Students learned about the heritage and culture of the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people.
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Modifications:

- For more advanced students, explore the Alutiiq Museum's online exhibits and resources to study specific topics.
 - For younger students, complete the scavenger hunt as a class or provide hints to assist the students in finding answers.
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Additional Resources:

- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Ciqlluq*—Sod Houses
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/465>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Nacaq*—Headdress
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/115>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Qayaq*—Kayak
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/303>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Kanaglluk*—Gutskin jacket
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/409>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Laampaq*—Lamp
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/314>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Uquq*—Oil
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/369>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Cama'i*—Hello
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/275>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Ulukaq*—Ulu
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/520>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Qayarpak*—Double-hatched Qayaq
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/601>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Tuyuq*—Chief
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/149>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Pikiyutaq*—Gift, Present
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/248>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Uksuq*—Winter
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/547>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *KaanaRiiq, FaapRiikaaq*—Cannery
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/141>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Nuqaq*—Throwing Board
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/506>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Tamuuq*—Dry Fish
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/208>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Taryuq, Sauliq*—Salt
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/429>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Iniluku*—Hang (to)
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/831>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Quliyanguaq*—Story
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/486>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Unigkuaq*—Legend
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/322>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Mun'arta*—Artist
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/709>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Maas'kaa, Giinaruaq, Giinaquq*—Mask
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/343>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Skauluq (N), Skuuluq (S)*—School
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/432>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Agayuwik*—Church
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/155>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Qenaluni*—Sick
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/450>
- Alutiiq Museum Word of the Week: *Ungwallriaq*—Animal
<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/Detail/word/95>

Alutiiq Museum Scavenger Hunt Objects

Write an interesting fact about each of the objects.

<i>Ciqlluaq</i> —Sod Houses	
<i>Nacaaq</i> —Headdress	
<i>Qayaaq</i> —Kayak	
<i>Kanaglluk</i> —Gutskin jacket	
<i>Naniq</i> —Oil lamp	
<i>Uluaq</i> —Ulu	

Draw your favorite object in the museum.



What is interesting about this object? Why is it your favorite object?

Alutiiq Museum Scavenger Hunt



- 1) How do you say hello in Alutiiq? _____
- 2) What are the three commonly used terms by the Native people of the Kodiak region? Explain each:
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- 3) What are the two distinct types of *Yaamat Igait*—Petroglyphs?

- 4) Fill in the sentence: In spring, people fish for _____, _____, _____, and _____ in ocean waters. In summer and fall, they harvest _____, _____, and _____ from streams, and in winter they fish for _____ through the ice.
- 5) What was a *Qayarpak*—Double-hatched Qayaq used for? _____
- 6) What tasks took place in the large central room of a sod house? _____ and _____.
- 7) What quality was a village chief selected for? _____, _____ and _____

- 8) How many worlds are there under the sea and in the sky. Which spirits live in each to care for animals? There are _____ worlds under the sea. There are _____ worlds in the sky. _____ lives at the bottom of the ocean. _____ lives on Earth.
- 9) What did the hosts give their visitors at the end of every festival? _____
- 10) What is the name of the rocky islet Alutiiq/Sugpiaq families retreated to in August 1784? _____
- 11) The burning *naniq*—oil lamp is a symbol of _____ and _____.
- 12) What material is the *Yaamaq Ukineruartuliq*—Story Rock made out of? _____
- 13) When did the first commercial canneries on Kodiak open? _____
- 14) What helped hunters launch their weapons and was carved to match the length of its owner's forearm?
Write the answer in Alutiiq and English. _____
- 15) What trade items came from the mainland to Kodiak Island?
_____, _____, _____, _____.

- 16) What are some different ways to preserve wild foods? Write the Alutiiq and English names.
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- 17) What is the difference between *Quliyanguat*—Stories and *Unigkuat*—Legends?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 18) What is the name for the place where villagers gathered for meetings, rituals, and festivals? _____
- 19) What games were played in the winter? _____
- 20) Fill in the sentence: Artists carved images of ancestors, animal spirits, and creatures into _____. Every mask was decorated, often with _____, _____, and _____ carvings. Masks were powerful religious objects worn on masks for dances that transformed the _____ and called _____ spirits to the gathering. Following ceremonies, _____ were broken and discarded to protect people from their _____. Masks were part of the dangerous process of _____ with the _____ world.
- 21) In the late 1700s, Old World diseases began ravaging Alutiiq villages. What are some of the diseases? What was the percentage of loss in 120 years? _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ and other illnesses killed hundreds. An _____% loss in 120 years.
- 22) What was the new religion? For protection and religious education what was the role of clergy members.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 23) Why was the transition to the American educational system difficult? What were youth separated from?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 24) What were the new industries that were introduced when the fur trade waned? _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- 25) In the 1980s, the Kodiak Area Native Association supported the exploration of Alutiiq heritage. What did the leaders believe and what did they start doing in the community?
- _____
- _____
- _____

Alutiiq Museum

Scavenger Hunt Answer Key



1. **Cama'i.** The C is pronounced with a "ch" sound. Cama'i like ch-um-eye. **(Entrance)**
2. **1. Sugpiaq—This is the oldest name for our people. It means "real person" in our language. It is the way our ancestors described themselves before the arrival of Russian traders**
2. Aleut—Russian traders used this term to describe all the Native people they encountered from the Aleutian Islands to the Kodiak Archipelago. The term was introduced to Kodiak.
3. Alutiiq—Alutiiq is the way Sugpiaq people say Aleut. It is the Native way of pronouncing the Russian-introduced word Aleut in our own language.
(Who we are Exhibit)
3. These carvings fall into two distinct groups. **One group shows images of people, objects, and animals. The other has pecked holes and sometimes carved lines.**
(Petroglyphs Exhibit)
4. In spring, people fish for **cod, halibut, rockfish, and herring** in ocean waters. In summer and fall, they harvest **salmon, trout, and char** from streams, and in winter they fish for **flounder** through the ice. **(Harvesting Exhibit)**
5. **For team hunting,** particularly sea otters. The man in the front hurled hunting weapons. The man in the rear steadied and steered the *qayaq*. **(Qayaq Exhibit)**
6. The large central room of a sod house was a family workspace and classroom. Here adults and children worked together to complete common tasks like **cooking and toolmaking.** Working beside family members of all ages, children learned essential skills.
(People: Homelife Exhibit)
7. Every village had a chief selected for their **generosity, wisdom, and ability to resolve conflict.** **(People: Homelife Exhibit)**
8. There are **five** sky worlds under the sea and **five** in the sky. **Imam Sua** lives at the bottom of the ocean and watches over sea creatures. **Nunam Sua** lives on Earth and cares for land animals. **(Spirit Exhibit)**
9. At the end of each festival, the host gave **gifts.** Participants received food for the journey home and presents of valuable materials and clothing. The ultimate gift was a squirrel-skin parka. Such lavish presents illustrated the host's skills—his ability to obtain resources and organize labor. **(Spirit Exhibit)**
10. **Awa'uq Refuge Rock.** Awa'uq means to become numb in the Alutiiq language. The name refers to the trauma experienced by survivors of the massacre. **(Conquest Exhibit)**
11. The burning *naniq*—oil lamp is a symbol of **culture** and **prosperity.** **(Fire Exhibit)**
12. **Yaamaq Ukineruartuliq—Story Rock.** Karluk One Site, **Greywacke.** Fourteen pecked depressions and one natural hole, cover the surface of this boulder. Found in an ancestral village beside the Karluk River, this may be a ceremonial piece. A description of a winter festival from 1803 mentions a large rock with spots. **(Carving in Stone Exhibit)**
13. The first commercial canneries followed in the **1880s.** **(Our World Exhibit)**
14. **Nuqaq—Throwing Board.** Used on land or while kneeling in a kayak, these tools increased the force of a hunter's throw, helping to deliver a killing blow. Some were decorated with animal carvings, often sea otters. **(Our World Exhibit)**
15. From the mainland, Kodiak Islanders obtained **caribou skins, walrus ivory, antler, volcanic rocks,** and other exotic items. **(Our People Exhibit)**
16. **1. Puyuqlluni, Kinerci'iluni cali—Smoking and Drying** **(Our World Exhibit)**
2. Arinarci'iluni—Fermenting
3. Uquq—Sea Mammal Oil
4. Kumlacirwilleq—Cold Storage
5. Sulunarluni—Salting

17. **Stories share personal experiences**—a bear hunt, childhood memories, the shaking caused by an earthquake, the bravery of a grandparent. **Alutiiq stories are tied to daily life, known people, and events.** People tell stories to entertain, share experiences, and teach history. **Legends explain the world.** These tales are passed down through the generations to share beliefs. They recount the origins of people, animals, and the stars. They explore ways to interact with the spirit world. They reveal the human-like soul inside every animal.
(Spirit Exhibit)
18. **Qasgiq.** Many Alutiiq/Sugpiaq villages had a *qasgiq*, a community gathering place for meetings, rituals, and festivals. A wealthy family built and maintained the *qasgiq*, gathering materials and organizing labor. These special structures were built like houses, but they were much larger. Some could hold up to a hundred people sitting on the floor and benches lining the walls. (Spirit Exhibit)
19. In winter, **throwing games** were part of hunting ceremonies held to honor animal spirits and ensure future prosperity. (Wamwik Exhibit)
20. Artists carved images of ancestors, animal spirits, and creatures into **wood**. Every mask was decorated, often with **paint, feathers, and small carvings.** Masks were powerful religious objects worn on masks for dances that transformed the **wearer** and called **animal** spirits to the gathering. Following ceremonies, **masks** were broken and discarded to protect people from their **power**. Masks were part of the dangerous process of **communicating** with the **spirit** world. (Festival Exhibit)
21. In the late 1700s, Old World diseases began ravaging Alutiiq villages. Outbreaks of **smallpox, influenza, cholera, measles, typhus,** and other illnesses killed hundreds. Between 1780 and 1910, Kodiak's Alutiiq population plummeted from about 8,000 to 1,300—an **84%** loss in 120 years. (Russian Exhibit)
22. **Orthodox.** Under Russian laws, baptized Christians received protection. So, **clergy members worked to convert our ancestors,** often against the wishes of traders. **Orthodox clergy established a school in Kodiak in 1796.** Students learned in Russian, Slavonic, and Alutiiq, as clergy members believed that the best way to spread Christianity was through the Native language. **Clergy members learned Alutiiq to teach Native children. They also developed the first Alutiiq alphabet and taught students to write hymns and read the gospels in Alutiiq.** (Russian Exhibit)
23. In American classrooms, educators worked to teach Native children an American way of life. They believed Western schooling would create productive citizens. The transition to the American education system was very difficult. **Youth were separated from their language, traditions and even their families. Alutiiq/Sugpiaq forms of education slowed, missionaries pushed new faiths, and many children encountered cruelty at school.**
24. As the fur trade waned, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people began working in new industries—**commercial fishing, canning, fox farming, mining, and guiding.** (American Exhibit)
25. In the 1980s, the Kodiak Area Native Association supported the exploration of Alutiiq heritage. **Leaders believed that cultural connection was essential to the health of Alutiiq people and communities. Classes in kayak building and weaving, instruction in the Alutiiq language, archaeological projects, and Elder interviews sparked learning and led to a cultural renaissance. The Alutiiq Museum grew from these efforts.**
(Fire Exhibit: Cultural Renaissance)