

# Berries of Interior Alaska

A Thematic Teaching Unit prepared by the  
Iditarod Area School District in McGrath, Alaska.



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## INTRODUCTION

Over the years, the School District has produced two Mini- Units on the topic of BERRIES in INTERIOR ALASKA: a Mini-Unit for Elementary Grades, *Berry Picking*, begun in 1983, and later revised and augmented over the years, comprised of daily lesson plans for the groups K-1, 2-3 and 4-5 with an emphasis on Language Arts; a Mini-Unit for Middle School, *Berries in Interior Alaska*, begun in 1997, produced under the auspices of the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative with an emphasis on science and math, written for grades 6-8 and keyed to the appropriate Alaska State Standards. Both units were supplemented with a travelling kit which contained a Notebook with lessons plans and supplementary materials, and also many books and natural products related to berries. Both of these min-units were used extensively throughout the school district.

This most recent version of the unit, which has been revised for presentation on the Internet, contains much of the original material but has been divided into an introduction and three sections as follows:

- Introduction – Brief history and notes to the teacher
- Section 1: Lessons for K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade, divided into segments
- Section 2: Lessons for Middle School
- Section 3: Materials and Resources for the unit as a whole

The supplementary materials including drawings of berries to be colored, berry stories, instructions for berry games and art projects, berry recipes and other information originally contained in the travelling kit are now found in the Materials and Resources section at the end of the Unit.