



Iditarod Trail History: How and Why the Trail and Great Race Started

Your name _____

Date _____ **Period** _____ **Due date** _____

Did you realize that the National Historic Trail existed long before the Serum Run in 1925? The Alaska Road Commission utilized old trading/trapping trails from Native Alaskans, gold rush transport routes, mail runs, and Russian Fur Trapping trail networks to connect a trail all the way from Seward to Nome.

Use this website to research the original trail:

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/nlcs/iditarod/history.html>

Answer the following questions after researching the history of the original trail. Answer on a separate sheet of paper with full sentences.

1. Where does the National Historic Trail start and end?
2. How long is the trail? Tell the actual mileage.
3. How was the trail created?
4. What were the original uses of the trail?

Iditarod Trail History:

How and Why the Trail and Great Race Started, continued

5. What are some of the reasons that the trail use declined starting in 1920?

6. How was the Iditarod Trail used as part of the original serum run in 1925?

7. What areas of the original trail were not used in the Serum Run?

8. Who are the two main people that helped to recreate interest in the trail?

9. Why did these people think it was important to preserve the trail and dog sledding?

10. How did trail history change this year?