

Where Are the Aleutian Islands and the Pribilof Islands?

OBJECTIVE

Students will explore the geography and environment of the Aleutian Islands and Pribilof Islands.

TIME REQUIRED

20 minutes

BACKGROUND

The Aleutian Islands are a chain of 14 large volcanic islands and 55 smaller ones extending about 1,200 miles (1900 km) westward from the Alaskan Peninsula. The Pribilof Islands are a group of volcanic islands: two larger islands (St. Paul and St. George) and three smaller islets (Otter Island, Walrus Island, and Sea Lion Rock). The Pribilof Islands are in the Bering Sea, about 200 miles (320 km) north of Unalaska Island in the Aleutian Islands.

MATERIALS

- Maps of Alaska, North America, world, or globe
- “The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, Regions of Wonder”
- Information on physical environment on Pribilofs and town/city of residence
- Climate & weather information
- Wildlife & natural resource information

PROCEDURES

Hand out Worksheet 2.2.1 : Where are the Aleutian Islands and the Pribilof Islands?.

Discuss the following natural elements regarding the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands and the roles they play in shaping the tools, language, beliefs, spirituality, education, economy, transportation, and other aspects or practices of the Unangan. Also allow for comparison to other peoples, their defining characteristics, and the natural elements in their locations on the Aleutian Islands or the Seward Peninsula, Alaska Peninsula, the Russian Far East, or other locations. Using the resources listed below, have students fill out Worksheet 2.2.1.

- Physical Environment
 - ◆ Location: Distance from mainland? Nearest town or city?
 - ◆ Geology: How were the Pribilof Islands formed? How were the Aleutian Islands formed?

- ◆ What is topography? Are there hills, lakes, rivers?

- Climate and Weather

- ◆ Describe the weather during the seasons: summer, fall, winter, spring.
- ◆ What is sea ice? When does it form during the year? When does it break up?

- Wildlife and Natural Resources

- ◆ Describe the wildlife: marine animals, birds, mammals
- ◆ Describe the plants

Hand out Worksheet 2.2.2 Map of Traditional territories of Alaska Native cultures.

This outline map shows traditional territories of Alaska Native cultures. Using the list of Alaska Native cultures label and shade in the respective regions.

Extra Credit

Shade in the “Unangan” regions of the maps. Compare and contrast to the other regions. The Unangan region starts at Unimak pass and goes west to the end of the Aleutians.

DISCUSSION

If you live on the Pribilof Islands describe how your environment is different from the rest of Alaska. Discuss weather, climate, geography, and wildlife.

If you don't live on the Pribilof Islands, how are the Pribilof Islands different from where you live? Discuss weather, climate, geography, and wildlife.

RESOURCES

Maps of Alaska, North America, world

- maps.google.com
- earth.google.com
- <http://dsc.discovery.com/discovery-earth-live/#>
- www.mapquest.com/
- “The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, Regions of Wonder” by Terry Johnson, 2003. Alaska Sea Grant College Program, Fairbank, Ak.

Information on physical environment on Pribilofs and town/city of residence

- <http://www.amiq.org/pribilof.html>

- http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Pribilof_Islands.aspx

Climate & weather information

- http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOS/ORR/TM_NOS_ORR/TM_NOS-ORR_17/HTML/Pribilof_html/Pages/pribilof_island_climate.htm
- <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/climate/>
- <http://worldweather.wmo.int/>

Wildlife & natural resource information

- <http://www.stgeorgetanaq.com/tourism.html>
- http://serc.carleton.edu/research_education/nativelands/pribilofs/floraandfauna.html
- <http://alaskamaritime.fws.gov/visitors-educators/wildlifeviewing/pribilofs.htm>
- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=viewinglocations.pribilofislands>

Adapted from “I Am Where I Am”: Mierzejek, B., A.D. Lestenkof, and P.A. Zavadil. 2007. Unangam-Based Environmental Education Primer for St. Paul Island, Alaska.

ACTIVITY 2.2 **WORKSHEET 2.2.1**

Where are the Aleutian Islands and the Pribilof Islands?

Fill in the location you are comparing with the Pribilof Islands.

Environment on Pribilof Islands	Characteristic	Environment on
	Physical Environment	
	Climate and Weather	
	Wildlife and Natural Resources	

ACTIVITY 2.2 **TEACHER KEY 2.2.1**

Where are the Aleutian Islands and the Pribilof Islands?

(Example: answers may vary)

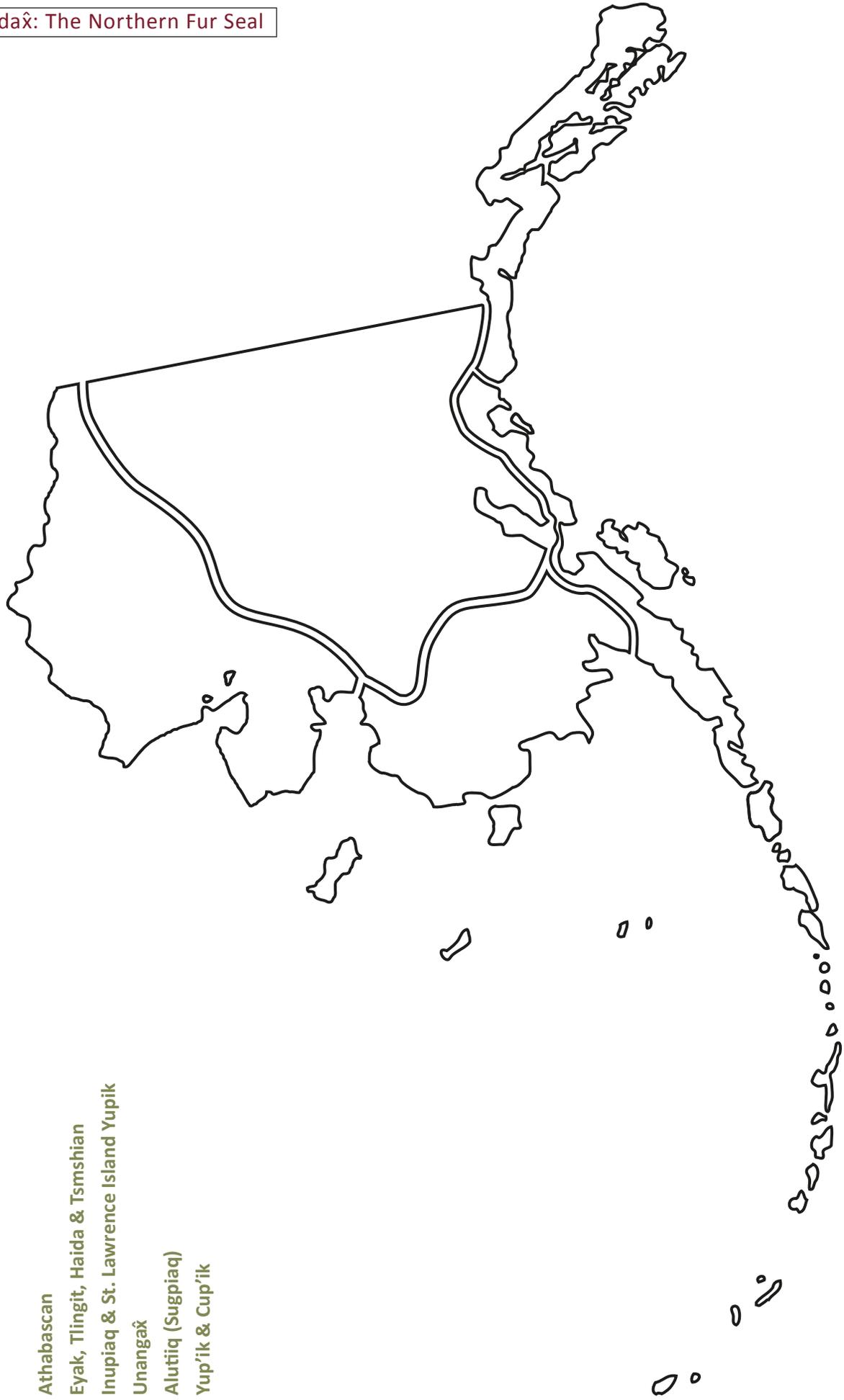
Fill in the location you are comparing with the Pribilof Islands.

Environment on Pribilof Islands	Characteristic	Environment on HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
<p>Distance from Aleutians = 250 miles</p> <p>Nearest mainland town or city = Anchorage, approximately 750 miles away.</p> <p>In Bering Sea</p> <p>Geology – volcanic origin</p>	<p>Physical Environment</p>	<p>Distance from mainland = 2,045 nautical miles</p> <p>Nearest mainland town or city = Point Arena, California Lighthouse, although locations on the Aleutian Islands are closer</p> <p>In North Pacific Ocean</p> <p>Geology – volcanic origin</p>
<p>Summer weather, avg. temp: 46.1°</p> <p>Winter weather, avg. temp: 29°</p> <p>Typical weather, foggy in summer... etc.</p>	<p>Climate and Weather</p>	<p>Summer weather, avg. temp: 94°</p> <p>Winter weather, avg. temp: 87°</p> <p>Typical weather, sunny with frequent rain on windward side of island</p>
<p>Native mammals – northern fur seal, fox, killer whales, other whales (gray whales, humpbacks) Steller sea lions, harbor seals, sea otter, walrus</p> <p>Introduced mammals – reindeer</p> <p>Birds – over 200 species have been identified including: tufted puffin, black leg kittiwake, common murre,</p> <p>Fish – halibut, pollock, cod</p> <p>Plants – native grass, wild celery - putschki, chocolate lily, willow, mossberries</p> <p>Trees – none</p>	<p>Wildlife and Natural Resources</p>	<p>Two native mammals, bat and Hawaiian monk seal</p> <p>Native birds – examples ‘iwi, Hawaiian goose (nene), tropicbirds, albatross</p> <p>Introduced birds – Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), Japanese Quail (<i>Coturnix japonica</i>), Zebra Dove (<i>Geopelia striata</i>)</p> <p>Fish – blackfin barracuda, angelfish, Hawaiian zebra blenny</p> <p>Plants...</p>
	<p>NOTE: Other categories can be added</p>	

Map of Traditional territories of Alaska Native cultures

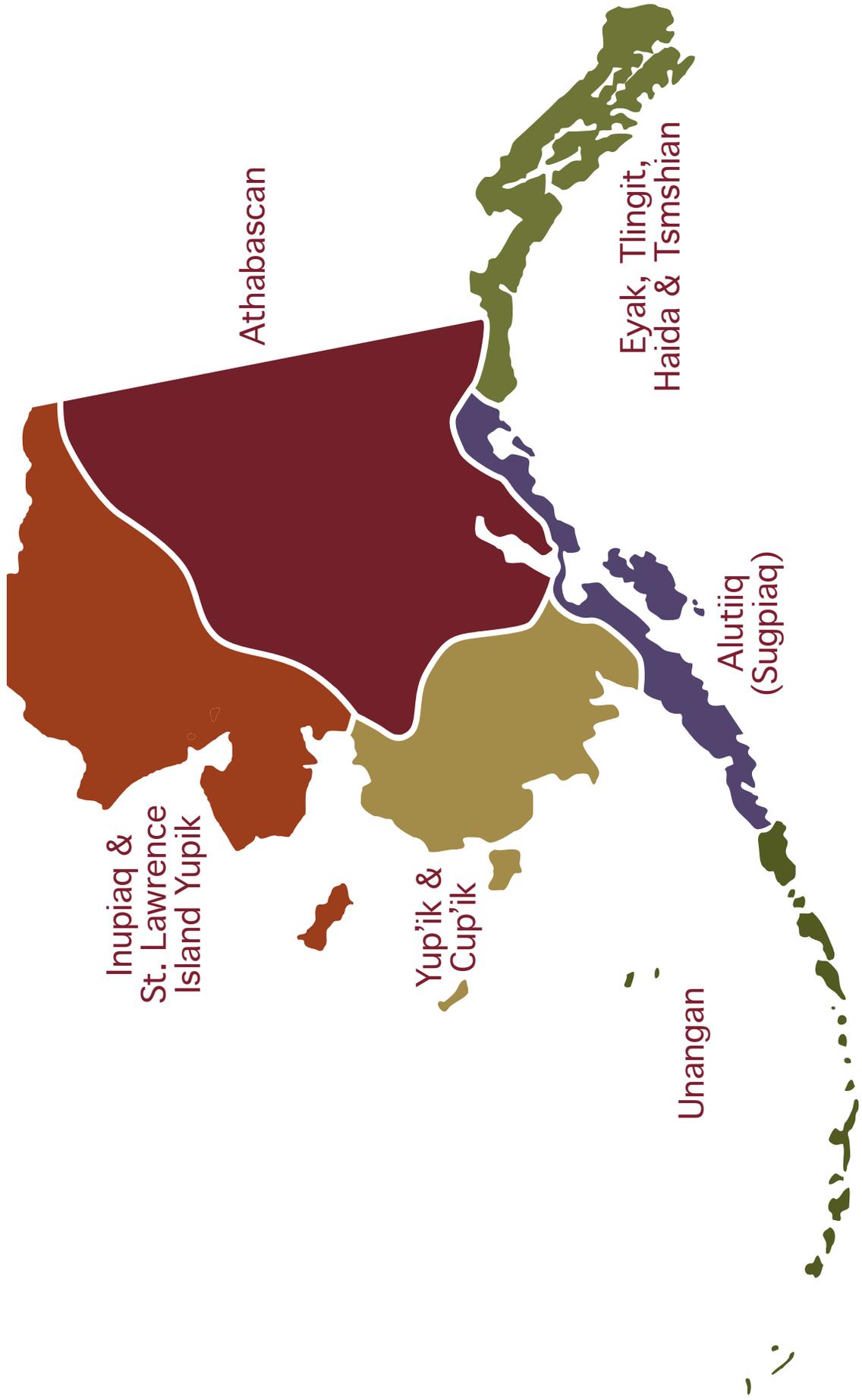
ACTIVITY 2.2 WORKSHEET 2.2.2

- Athabaskan
- Eyak, Tlingit, Haida & Tsmshian
- Inupiaq & St. Lawrence Island Yupik
- Unangax̂
- Alutiiq (Sugpiaq)
- Yup'ik & Cup'ik



*Adapted from source map by: Alaska Native Heritage Center, Anchorage Alaska <http://www.alaskanative.net/>. Used with permission.

ACTIVITY 2.2 TEACHER KEY 2.2.2 Map of Traditional territories of Alaska Native cultures*



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