

STAMPS *of Alaska*



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ALASKA PREHISTORY AND EARLY HISTORY

1991 50c Bering Land Bridge
airmail stamp
(Scott C131)

1996 32c
Woolly Mammoth
(Scott 3078)

Alaska's Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is one of the most remote U.S. national park areas, located on the state's Seward Peninsula. The National Preserve protects a remnant of the Bering Land Bridge that connected Asia with North America more than 13,000 years ago during the Pleistocene ice age. The majority of this land bridge, once thousands of miles wide, now lies beneath the waters of the Chukchi and Bering Seas. Asians followed migrating mammoths across the then-dry Bering Sea into North America between 16,000 B.C. and 10,000 B.C. Their passage was blocked by a huge sheet of ice until an ice-free corridor opened from Alaska through northwestern Canada, allowing bands to fan out across the rest of the hemisphere. Now extinct, the last woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), also called the tundra mammoth, vanished from Europe and Southern Siberia about 8,000 B.C. Woolly mammoths as well as Columbian mammoths disappeared also from the North American continent at the end of the ice age. A small population of woolly mammoths survived on St. Paul Island, Alaska, up to as recently as 3,750 B.C.

1972 8c Fur Seals
(Scott 1464)

1990 25c Sea Otter
(Scott 2510)

1990 25c Northern Sea Lion
(Scott 2509)

1981 18c Harbor Seal
(Scott 1882)

Prized for their pelts and meat, aquatic mammals, fish, and shellfish are the riches of Alaska's coastal waters. In 1742, Vitus Bering's men returned with pelts of the sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*) from his historic voyage of discovery of Alaska. Competition for these rich furs nearly wiped the sea otters out. From as few as 2,000 in 1911, by the mid-1970s the Alaska population had rebounded to as many as 160,000. In the 1970s, the worldwide population of the Steller or northern sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) was about 281,800, with the Alaska population estimated at 242,000, but the number in Alaska declined by 50 percent from the mid-'70s to the mid-'80s. For the past 37 years, there has been little hunting of these sea lions, although some are still taken by Alaskan Natives for food around Kodiak Island, the Aleutians, and the Pribilof Islands. The northern fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*) is found on both sides of the Pacific from about 32° north to the central Bering Sea. Fully mature males weigh 450-600 pounds when they arrive at rookery areas in the late spring. Alaska's Pribilof Islands provide breeding grounds for over two-thirds of the world population, and hundreds of thousands return each summer to give birth and breed. The harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) is found in Alaska along the coast from British Columbia north to Kuskokwim Bay and west throughout the Aleutian Islands.

1978 13c Captain Cook "Alaska 1778"
(Scott 1732)

1978 13c HMS *Resolution* and *Discovery*
(Scott 1733)

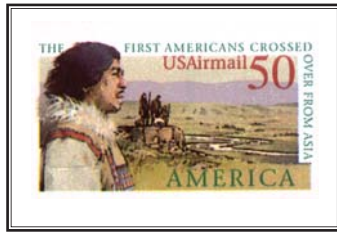
On James Cook's last voyage in 1778, the famous English explorer, navigator, mapmaker and Royal Navy Captain commanded HMS *Resolution*, while Captain Charles Clerke commanded HMS *Discovery* in a search for the fabled Northwest Passage. Cook explored and mapped the West Coast from California all the way to the Bering Strait, on the way identifying what came to be known as Cook Inlet in Alaska, and in a single visit charted the majority of the North American northwest coastline on world maps for the first time. Cook also made several unsuccessful attempts to sail through the Bering Strait before finally turning back.

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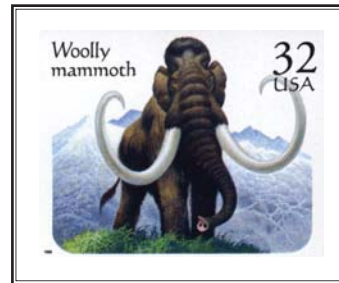
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ALASKA PREHISTORY AND EARLY HISTORY



1991 50c
Bering Land Bridge airmail
(Scott C131)



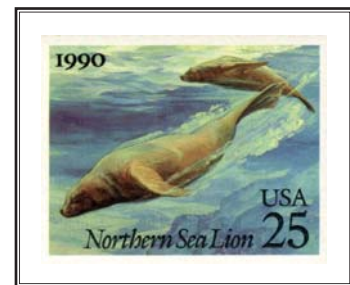
1996 32c Woolly Mammoth
(Scott 3078)



1972 8c Fur Seals
(Scott 1464)



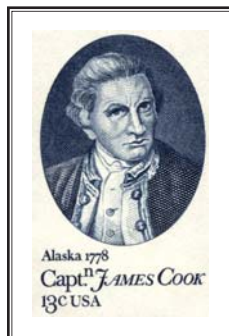
1990 25c Sea Otter
(Scott 2510)



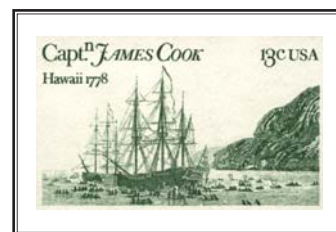
1990 25c Northern Sea Lion
(Scott 2509)



1981 18c
Harbor Seal
(Scott 1882)



1978 13c Captain Cook
"Alaska 1778"
(Scott 1732)



1978 13c Captain Cook's Ships
Resolution and Discovery
(Scott 1733)



THE ALASKA PURCHASE & GOLD RUSH DAYS

1938 17c Andrew Johnson
(Scott 822)

1967 8c Alaska Purchase
Centennial air mail (Scott C70)

1909 2c Alaska-Yukon-Pacific
Exposition (Scott 370)

President Johnson's purchase of Alaska from the Russian Empire in 1867 was the most important foreign policy action of his administration. A 1967 8-cent air mail stamp marking the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase pictures a totem pole from the Alaska State Museum in Juneau. The transfer ceremony marking U.S. sovereignty took place in Sitka on October 18, 1867— Alaska Day. Russian and American soldiers paraded in front of the governor's house, the Russian flag was lowered and the American flag raised as cannons barked a salute. Currently, Alaska celebrates the purchase each year on Seward's Day, the last Monday of March. The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was a regional world's fair held in Seattle, Washington, from June 1 to October 16, 1909, publicizing the development of the Pacific Northwest. It had originally been planned for 1907, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Klondike Gold Rush, but was not held then due to a conflict with the Jamestown Exposition of that year. The 2-cent stamp honoring the exposition pictures William Seward, U.S. Secretary of State under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson. In 1867, Seward negotiated the Alaska Purchase (ridiculed as "Seward's Folly" or "Seward's Icebox"), by which 586,412 square miles of modern Alaska was purchased from the Russian Empire for \$7.2 million — about 1.9¢ per acre.

Shown below the stamps is the actual canceled \$7,200,000 U.S. Treasury check that paid for this historic transaction.

1964 5c John Muir
(Scott 1245)

John Muir (1838–1914) was a Scottish-born American naturalist, author, and pioneering advocate of the preservation of U.S. wilderness, whose philosophy and writings strongly influenced the modern environmental movement. Alaska's Muir Glacier in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is named in his honor. In 1878 and 1880, Muir visited and wrote about the area, and his account appeared in the *San Francisco Bulletin*. Later, he collected and edited these installments in a book, *Travels in Alaska*, published in 1915.

1986 22c Adolphus W. Greely
(Scott 2221)

Adolphus W. Greely (1844–1935), was a polar explorer, U.S. Army officer, and Medal of Honor recipient. In 1881, Greely commanded the ill-fated Lady Franklin Bay Expedition in the Arctic, which was not rescued until 1884, by which time 19 of its crew of 25 perished. During his tenure as Chief Signal Officer of the Army after 1887, in Alaska Greely built a telegraph system of nearly 4,000 miles, using submarine and land cables and wireless telegraphy. The latter covered 107 miles, then the longest commercial wireless system in the world.

1986 25c Jack London
(Scott 2182)

Jack London (1876–1916), author of *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, and *The Sea Wolf*, was one of the first American writers to make a lucrative career writing magazine fiction. In 1897, London joined the Klondike Gold Rush in Alaska, where he would later set his first successful stories, including the outstanding short story "To Build a Fire." Though London barely survived serious illness and malnutrition in the north, the Klondike later became the setting for a number of his most popular books.

1998 32c Klondike Gold Rush
(Scott 3235)

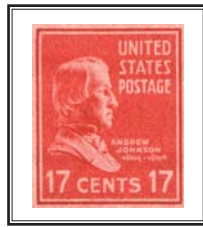
The 1897-98 Klondike Gold Rush, sometimes called the Alaska Gold Rush, was a frenzy of gold rush prospecting and immigration along the Klondike River near Dawson City, in Canada's Yukon Territory, after gold was discovered there in the late 19th century. By bringing large numbers of entrepreneurial adventurers to the region, the Gold Rush significantly contributed to the economic development of Alaska, Western Canada, and the Pacific Northwest. Most prospectors landed at the Alaskan towns of Skagway, or Dyea, and proceeded along the grueling route east to the Yukon.

1994 29c Wyatt Earp
(Scott 2869j)

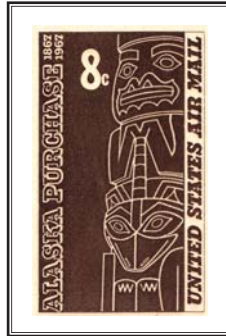
After his adventures in Wichita, Dodge City, Tombstone, and California, in the fall of 1897, Wild West icon Wyatt Earp (1849-1929) and common-law wife Josie Marcus were among the thousands who joined in the gold rush to Alaska, where for the following few years Earp ran several saloons and gambling concessions in Nome. While living in Alaska, Earp may have met and become friends with Jack London, though the likelihood seems remote. Wyatt and Josie reportedly returned in 1901 with earnings estimated at \$80,000, and immediately headed for the gold strike in Tonopah, Nevada.



THE ALASKA PURCHASE & GOLD RUSH DAYS



1938 17c
Andrew Johnson
(Scott 822)



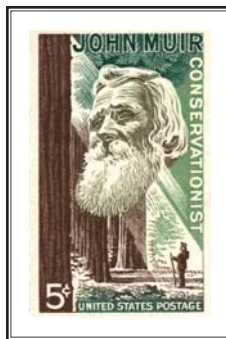
1967 8c Alaska Purchase
Centennial air mail (Scott C70)



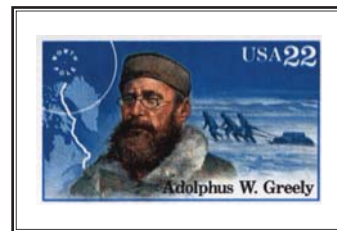
1909 2c
Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition
(Scott 370)



*The 1868 U.S. Treasury Department Check for \$7,200,000
that Purchased Alaska from Imperial Russia*



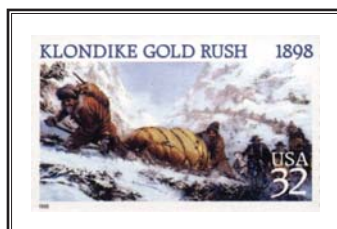
1964 5c John Muir
(Scott 1245)



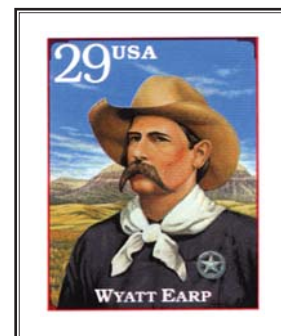
1986 22c Adolphus W. Greely
(Scott 2221)



1986 25c
Jack London
(Scott 2182)



1998 32c Klondike Gold Rush
(Scott 3235)



1994 29c Wyatt Earp
(Scott 2869)



ALASKA FROM U.S. TERRITORY TO 49TH STATE

1937 3c Alaska Territory
(Scott 800)

1976 13c Flag of Alaska
(Scott 1681)

1971 8c Dwight D. Eisenhower
(Scott 1394)

1959 7c Alaska Statehood air mail
(Scott C53)

1959 4c 49-Star U.S. Flag
(Scott 1132)

One of four U.S. territorial commemoratives of 1937 was the first of four U.S. stamps to picture Mount McKinley. Also known by its native name as Denali ("The Great One"), it is the highest peak in North America, at 20,320 feet. It is one of the coldest peaks on Earth, with recorded temperatures as low as -100 degrees Fahrenheit. Alaska's state flag is simple but brilliant. Designed in a 1926 contest by 13-year-old Bennie Benson, a seventh-grade Aleut student living in an orphanage in Seward, its blue background represents the sky and the state flower, the Forget-Me-Not. The eight stars, rendered in gold to honor the state's mineral riches, represent the Big Dipper of the constellation Ursa Major, symbolizing strength, and the North Star, symbolizing the future of the most northerly state in the Union. It was in the second presidential term of Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) that Alaska finally became a state, crowning a campaign for that status that first began in Nome 52 years before. The January 3, 1959, proclamation stated, "Now, therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby declare and proclaim that the procedural requirements imposed by the Congress on the State of Alaska to entitle that state to admission into the Union have been complied with in all respects and that admission of the State of Alaska into the Union on an equal footing with other states of the Union is now accomplished." A 7c air mail stamp with the stars from the state flag and an outline map superimposed on a mountainous background marked Alaska's arrival in the union on January 3, 1959, as did the addition of the 49th star to the flag of the United States.

1984 20c Alaska Statehood 25th Anniversary
(Scott 2066)

This stamp marking the first quarter-century of Alaska statehood shows a summer scene of Alaskan caribou and a section of the elevated above-ground Trans-Alaska or Alyeska Pipeline. Since its completion in 1977, the pipeline has transported over 15 billion barrels of North Slope oil from the Arctic Ocean at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, to the Gulf of Alaska at Valdez, where it is loaded and shipped south for refining. More than half of its nearly 800-mile length is elevated rather than buried to prevent the frozen Alaskan permafrost from melting and shifting. Though opponents worried that it would interfere with the caribou, the animals often gather under the pipe, apparently to absorb its radiant heat.

2008 42c Alaska Flag & Humpback Whale
(Scott 4275)

A humpback whale surfaces dramatically on this stamp showing Alaska's flag. The humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) is frequently seen swimming or feeding close to shore along the southern coast of Alaska. Most humpbacks migrate in the fall to temperate or tropical wintering areas to reproduce, returning in spring to Alaska where food is abundant. Humpback whales tend to concentrate in southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, the area near Kodiak and the Barren Islands, the area between the Semidi and Shumagin Islands, and the eastern Aleutian Islands and southern Bering Sea.

2009 42c Alaska Statehood 50th Anniversary
(Scott number not yet assigned)

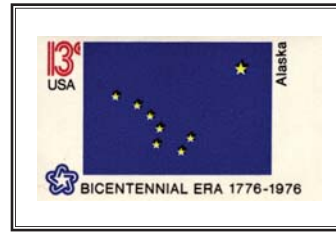
According to the U.S. Postal Service, "The 50th Anniversary of Alaska statehood is celebrated with an image of a dog sled team, by photographer Jeff Schultz. Alaska is the largest state in the Union and is home to approximately 675,000 people, most of whom live in the Anchorage metropolitan area. Alaska is larger than all but 18 nations. The state motto is 'North to the Future.'" The stamp was issued on January 3, 2009, in Anchorage.



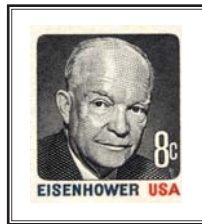
ALASKA FROM U.S. TERRITORY TO 49TH STATE



1937 3c Alaska Territory
(Scott 800)



1976 13c Flag of Alaska
(Scott 1681)



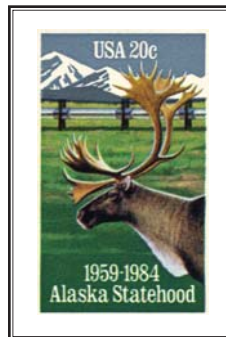
1971 8c
Dwight D. Eisenhower
(Scott 1394)



1959 7c Alaska Statehood
air mail stamp
(Scott C53)



1959 4c
49-Star U.S. Flag
(Scott 1132)



1984 20c Alaska Statehood
25th Anniversary
(Scott 2066)



2008 42c Alaska Flag &
Humpback Whale (Scott 4275)



2009 42c Alaska Statehood
50th Anniversary



MORE ALASKAN HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

1992 29c Alaska Highway 50th Anniversary
(Scott 2635)

Also known as the Alaska-Canada or ALCAN Highway, this strategic roadway built during World War II connects the lower 48 states to Alaska through Canada. Completed in 1943, the 1,522-mile highway runs from British Columbia through Canada's Yukon Territory to its final 200 mile stretch through Alaska, where it ends at Delta Junction, about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks. It was intended to link the airfields of the Northwest Staging Route that conveyed lend-lease military aircraft from the U.S. to the Soviet Union.

1999 55c Billy Mitchell
(Scott 3330)

A military thinker who was decades ahead of his time in recognizing the importance of air power to military strategy, Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell was among the first to see Alaska's Aleutian Islands as a key to the ability to control vital Pacific transportation routes. Mitchell stated to Congress in 1935, "I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world."

1964 5c Amateur Radio
(Scott 1260)

On March 28, 1964, Alaska's "Good Friday Earthquake" and tsunamis killed 131 people, leveled villages, and devastated Anchorage and Valdez. This stamp was issued that year in Anchorage to honor the Amateur Radio Relay League, whose operators in the quake's aftermath provided essential emergency communications vital to relief and rescue operations. Ham operators continue to provide key communications in emergencies in Alaska.

1992 29c Dutch Harbor Buildings on Fire
(Scott 2697e)

This stamp from the 1992 World War II pane commemorating events of 50 years before recalls the June 3 attack on the Dutch Harbor Naval Base and Fort Mears in the central Aleutian Islands, part of the Japanese invasion of that Alaskan islands chain in June 1942. Regarded by most historians as a diversion to draw off U.S. troops and ships, it failed due to the success of U.S. intelligence in uncovering Japan's major thrust at Midway Island.

2001 80c Mount McKinley air mail
(Scott C137)

1972 15c Mount McKinley • Alaska
(Scott 1454)

2002 34c Greetings From Alaska
(Scott 3562)

First pictured on the 1937 3c Alaska Territory stamp, Mount McKinley (also known as Denali, meaning "The Great One") is North America's highest peak, and as such has appeared repeatedly on U.S. postage. The 20,320 foot-high peak was the 15-cent high value in a 1972 issue celebrating the 100th birthday of the National Parks Service, and a photographic image of the famous peak appeared on an 80-cent airmail. Finally, according to the Postal Service's description of its 2002 Greetings from Alaska stamps, "A brown bear wading in a rushing river seizes a salmon in his mouth. In the distance are seen Mount McKinley (Denali) and other peaks of the Alaska Range."

2006 39c Bering Glacier
(Scott 4036)

This Wonders of America stamp commemorates the Bering Glacier, near Cordova, Alaska. Combined with the Bagley Icefield that feeds it, the Bering is the largest glacier in North America. It is about 126 miles long and about 30 miles wide near its terminus. The glacier changes size with fluctuations in the weather and "calves" icebergs into Vitus Lake — the process in which the front edge of a glacier breaks off to form an iceberg. The amount of water it releases annually is more than twice the amount of water in the entire Colorado River.

1986 17c Dog Sled 1920s
(Scott 2135)

In January 1925, when a diphtheria epidemic threatened isolated Nome, Alaska's most famous delivery took place via dogsled. A supply of life-saving antitoxin in Anchorage was sent by rail to Nenana — more than 670 icy, roadless miles from Nome. Alaska's best sled mushers, many of them contractors for the U.S. Post Office Department, relayed the vital parcel from Nenana to Nome. They covered a distance in less than six days, saving the lives of the children and earning medals from the pharmaceutical maker.

2007 41c Aurora Borealis /
Northern Lights (Scott 4203)

LeRoy Zimmerman of Ester, Alaska, took this shot of the aurora borealis, or Northern Lights, over the state's Talkeetna Mountains. The aurora is a luminous nighttime glow at high latitudes surrounding the north magnetic pole — a result of a magnetic storm, when Earth's magnetic field is unusually active due to the Sun. Energetic electrons descend from space and collide with molecules in the upper atmosphere, leading to the emission of green and red light. In 2007, the aurora were studied during international Polar Year.



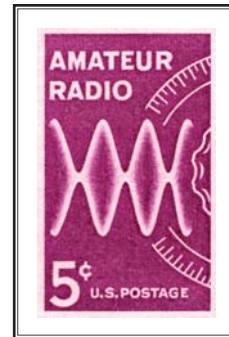
MORE ALASKAN HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY



1999 55c Billy Mitchell
(Scott 3330)



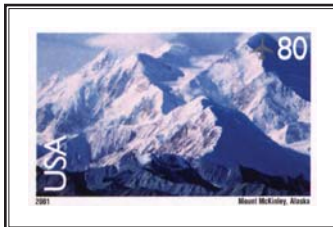
1992 29c Alaska Highway
50th Anniversary
(Scott 2635)



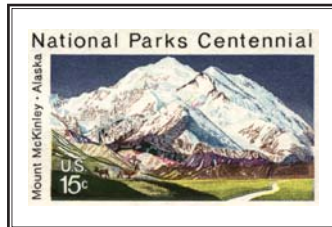
1964 5c Amateur Radio
(Scott 1260)



1992 29c
Dutch Harbor Buildings on Fire
(Scott 2697e)



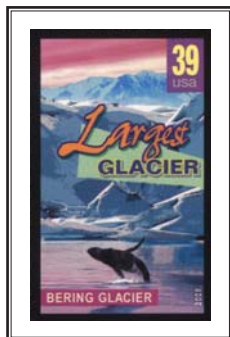
2001 80c
Mount McKinley air mail stamp
(Scott C137)



1972 15c
Mount McKinley • Alaska
(Scott 1454)



2002 34c
Greetings From Alaska
(Scott 3562)



2006 39c Bering Glacier
(Scott 4036)



1986 17c
Dog Sled 1920s
(Scott 2135)



2007 41c
Aurora Borealis / Northern Lights
(Scott 4203)



ALASKA FLORA AND FAUNA

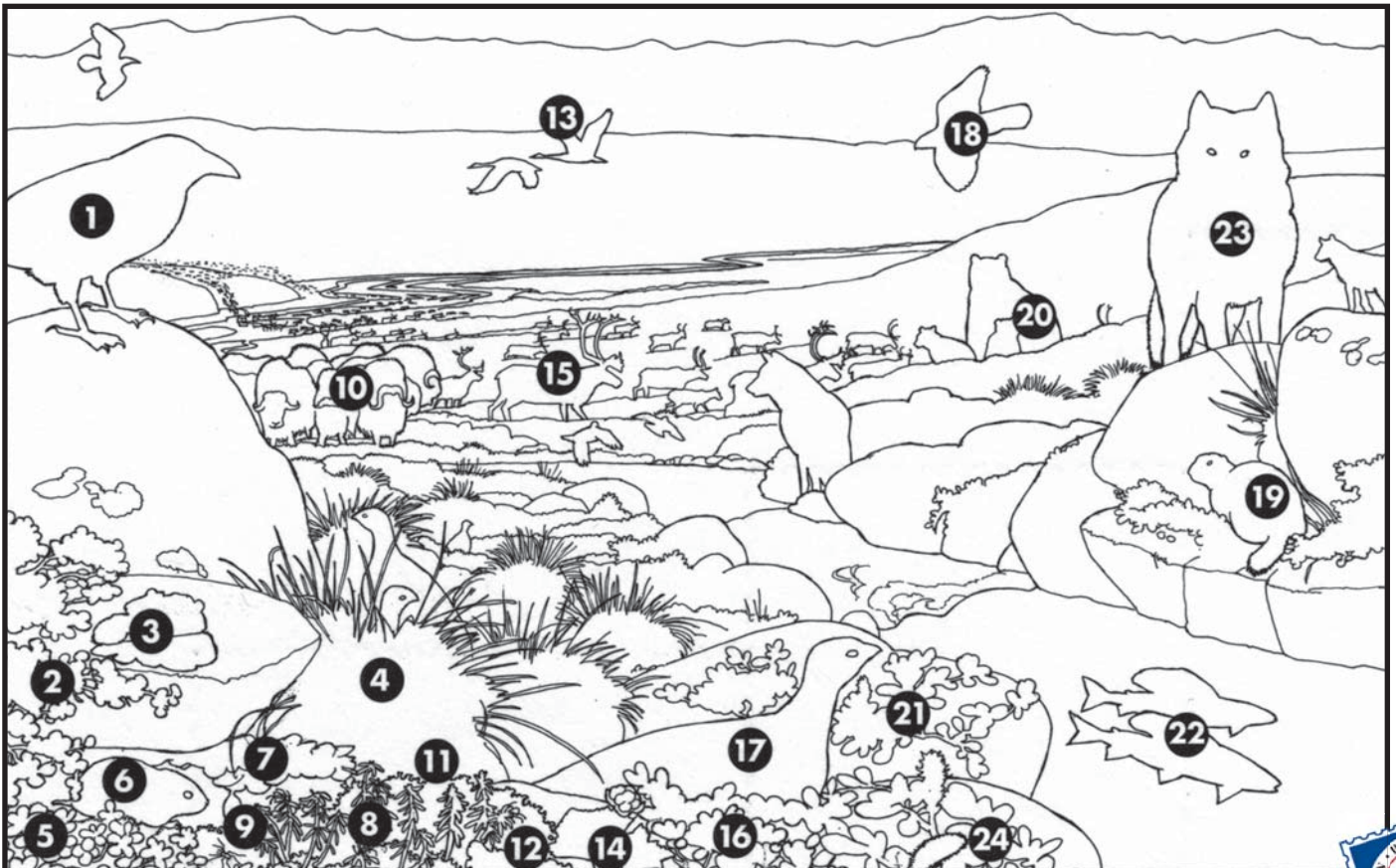
2003 Arctic Tundra pane of ten 33c Nature of America stamps
(Scott 3802)

Issued July 2, 2003, in Fairbanks, Alaska, the Arctic Tundra stamps depict plants and animals in the coldest of the North American ecosystems — a vast, treeless region stretching across northern Alaska and Canada. There the soil is permanently frozen (permafrost) except for the surface layer, thawed by the summer sun, where plants take root. Summer days in the Arctic are long, but the growing season is short. Arctic plants have adapted to the cold and wind. Most grow close to the ground, many are evergreen, and all are frost-hardy. Although there are no trees on the tundra, other plants flourish there: shrubs and herbs (non-woody plants), sedges and grasses, lichens, and mosses.

The Arctic tundra provides habitat for diverse fauna, including large mammals such as the musk ox, grizzly bear, and gray wolf. It serves as the calving grounds for caribou and provides nesting sites for many species of migratory birds.

Ten self-adhesive stamps in this pane show 23 species found in the Arctic Tundra. Artist John D. Dawson portrayed an autumn tundra scene in the northern foothills of the majestic Brooks Range in Alaska. Caribou migrate south to the forest, while tundra swans fly across the continent to the Atlantic coast. A willow ptarmigan begins molting into white plumage that conceals it in snow, as singing voles build forage piles of vegetation for winter feeding. Although the scene itself is imaginary, all species represented are appropriate and were recommended by scientists and ecologists of the region. A numbered key to the artwork appear on the back of the stamp pane, along with a corresponding list of common and scientific names for the 23 species, shown in the key below:

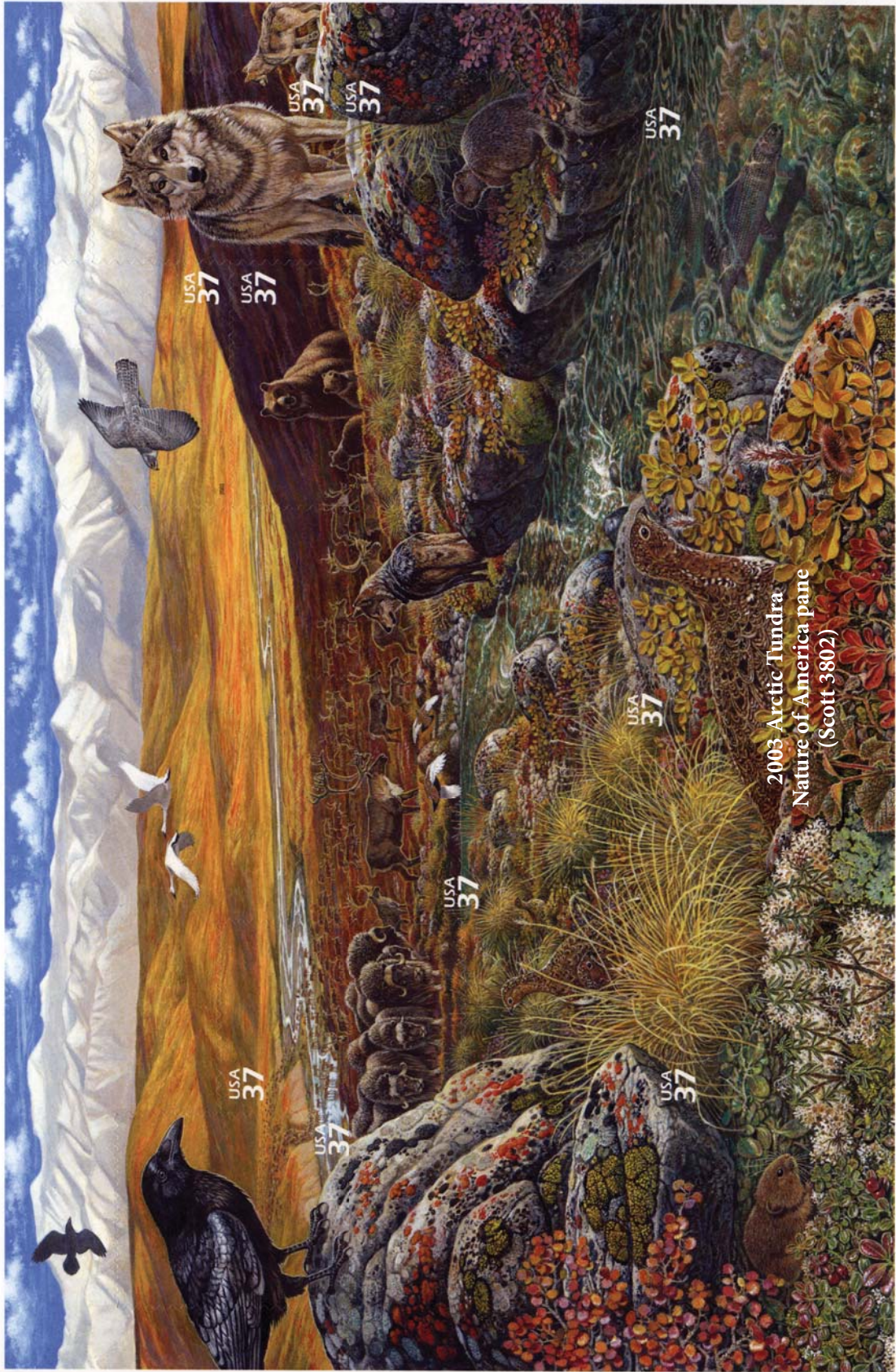
1. Common Raven (*Corvus corax*); 2. Dwarf Birch (*Betula nana*); 3. Map Lichen (*Rhizocarpon geographicum*); 4. Tussock Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*); 5. Lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*); 6. Singing Vole (*Microtus miurus*); 7. Singing Vole's forage pile; 8. Labrador Tea (*Ledum palustre decumbens*); 9. Thin-legged Wolf Spider (*Pardosa* sp.); 10. Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*); 11. Reindeer Lichen (*Cladonia rangiferina*); 12. Green Dog Lichen (*Peltigera aphthosa*); 13. Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*); 14. Cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*); 15. Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*); 16. Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos rubra*); 17. Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*); 18. Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*); 19. Arctic Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus parryii*); 20. Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*); 21. Arctic Willow (*Salix arctica*); 22. Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*); 23. Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*); 24. Arctic Woolly Bear Caterpillar (*Gynaephora rossii*)



ALASKA FLORA AND FAUNA

ARCTIC TUNDRA

FIFTH IN A SERIES



2003 Arctic Tundra
Nature of America pane
(Scott 3802)

N A T U R E O F A M E R I C A

MORE ALASKAN WILDLIFE

1982 20c Alaska Bird & Flower
(Scott 1954)

Adopted by the territorial legislature in 1917, Alaska's wild native Forget-me-not (*Myosotis alpestris*) can be found in most areas across the state, its delicate blossoms adding color to the brief summer. This perennial grows 5 to 12 inches high in alpine meadows, with sky-blue petals around a white inner ring and a yellow center. Designated as Alaska's state bird in 1955, the Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), a close relative of forest and prairie grouse, is one of three kinds of ptarmigan found in Alaska. Their wings are white all year, they have pure white body plumage in winter, and they are found nearly everywhere in Alaska's high, treeless country.

Other Alaskan Wildlife on United States Stamps

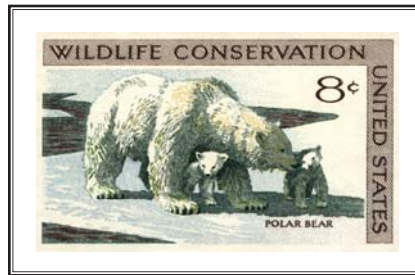
- **Polar Bear:** 1971 8c Wildlife Conservation stamp (Scott 1429) & 1999 33c Arctic Animals stamp (Scott 3291) – The most powerful of Arctic predators, the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) is native to the Arctic Ocean and its surrounding seas. An extremely large adult male may weigh 1,500 pounds, though most mature males weigh 600 pounds to 1,200 pounds and are 8 feet to 10 feet long. Mature females weigh 400 to 700 pounds. The largest polar bear on record, at 2,210 pounds, was a male shot in northwestern Alaska in 1960. In winter, bears off Alaska commonly occur as far south as St. Lawrence Island and may even reach St. Matthew Island and the Kuskokwim Delta. During the summer, bears are seen near the edge of the pack ice in the Chukchi Sea and Arctic Ocean.
- **Grizzly bear:** 1981 18c Save Mountain Habitats (Scott 1923) & 1987 22c Alaskan Brown Bear (Scott 2310) – Alaska's brown bears (*Ursus arctos*), including Kodiaks and grizzlies, occur throughout mainland Alaska and on Kodiak Island. Brown bears are favorites topic with most hunters, hikers, photographers, and fishermen. In late summer and fall, mature males weigh between 500 pounds and 900 pounds, and females half to three-quarters as much. Extremely large individuals can weigh up to 1,400 pounds, have skulls 18 inches long and a foot wide, and stand about 9 feet tall. Inland bears are usually smaller than coastal bears, probably because they do not have as much protein-rich food.
- **Moose:** 1987 22c North American Wildlife (Scott 2298) – The world's largest deer family members, the Alaska race of moose (*Alces alces gigas*) is the biggest, ranging from the Stikine River in Alaska's Panhandle to the Colville River on the Arctic Slope. Males stand over 7 feet at the shoulder, with six-foot-wide antlers, and weigh nearly 1,400 pounds.
- **Bald Eagle:** 1987 22c North American Wildlife (Scott 2309) – The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) of Alaska's waterways is the state's largest resident bird of prey, with a wingspan up to 7½ feet and weighing up to 14 pounds. The population of 30,000 Bald Eagles in Alaska is greater than anywhere else in the United States. Found along Alaska's coast, offshore islands, and interior lakes and rivers, the highest nesting densities occur on the islands of southeast Alaska, and most winter in southern Alaska. In the Chilkat Valley, as many as 3,000 or more may congregate in late fall and early winter to feed on spawned-out salmon.
- **Gray Wolf:** 1987 22c North American Wildlife (Scott 2322) & 1999 33c Arctic Animals stamp (Scott 3292) – The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) occurs throughout mainland Alaska, on Unimak Island in the Aleutians, and on all of the major islands in Southeast except Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof. This range includes about 85 percent of Alaska's 586,000 square-mile area. Wolves are adaptable and exist in a wide variety of habitats extending from the rain forests of the Southeast Panhandle to the arctic tundra along the Beaufort Sea.
- **Wolverine:** 1987 22c North American Wildlife (Scott 2327) – The wolverine, also known as devil bear, carcajou, or woods devil, has a scientific name (*Gulo gulo*) meaning "glutton." These voracious omnivores occur in small numbers throughout their range and require large expanses of wilderness. There have always been significant wolverine populations throughout mainland Alaska and some of the islands of Southeast Alaska. Valued by Alaskans for fur and as a symbol of wilderness, wolverines are primarily found in the wilder and more remote areas of Alaska.
- **Arctic Hare:** 1999 33c Arctic Animals stamp (Scott 3288) – The largest hare in North America, the Arctic Hare (*Lepus arcticus*) is largely adapted to polar and mountainous habitats, and in Alaska has a white pelt year round.
- **Arctic Fox:** 1999 33c Arctic Animals stamp (Scott 3289) – One of the Arctic hare's chief native predators is the Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*), a small white fox common throughout the tundra.
- **Snowy Owl:** 1999 33c Arctic Animals stamp (Scott 3290) – Another skilful predator of the high North is the Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*), also known as the Arctic or Great White Owl.
- **Great Gray Owl:** 1978 15c Owl Issue (Scott 1760) – Though widely distributed in Alaska, the Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) is common only in certain localities: from the Brooks Range, south to Cook Inlet, east into Canada.
- **Great Horned Owl:** 1978 15c Owl Issue (Scott 1763) – The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is common throughout all but the northernmost portions of inland Alaska, though uncommon in coastal regions.
- **Killer Whale:** 1990 20c Sea Creatures Issue (Scott 2508) – The largest member of the dolphin family, the killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) attacks and eats whales or other large prey, such as seals and sea lions. Adults grow to a length of 27 feet, and may weigh as much as 10 tons. Pods of up to 40 are found throughout the marine waters of Alaska.



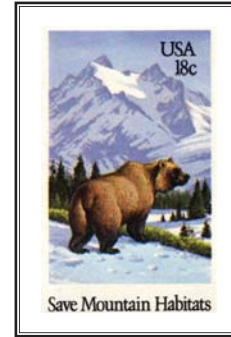
MORE ALASKAN WILDLIFE



1982 20c Alaska
State Bird & Flower
(Scott 1954)



1971 8c Polar Bears
(Scott 1429)



1981 18c Mountain
Habitats Grizzly Bear
(Scott 1923)



1987 22c
Moose
(Scott 2298)



1987 22c
Bald Eagle
(Scott 2309)



1987 22c
Alaskan Brown Bear
(Scott 2310)



1987 22c
Gray Wolf
(Scott 2322)



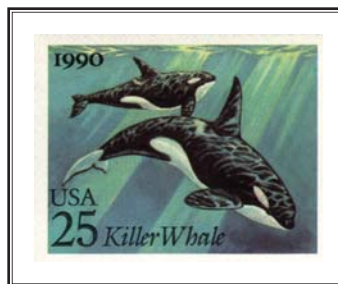
1987 22c
Wolverine
(Scott 2327)



1999 33c Arctic Animals
(Scott 3288-3292)



1978 15c Great Gray Owl
(Scott 1760)



1990 25c Killer Whale
(Scott 2508)



1978 15c Great Horned Owl
(Scott 1763)



ALASKA



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The Alaska Collectors' Club — American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 218 — is dedicated to developing a wider interest in the study of and preservation of Alaska's postal history. The club's quarterly journal, *The Alaskan Philatelist*, and its periodic auctions are the primary resources of the ACC. For a sample issue of *The Alaskan Philatelist*, send \$2 to Editor Eric Knapp, 4201 Folker St., Unit C102, Anchorage, AK 99508. Club membership is very diverse, and most members have other Alaska-related interests, such as art, trade tokens, books, photographs, and dog sled races.

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Credits

The United States as Depicted on its Postage Stamps, Steve Rajtar, MacFarland & Co., Inc., Jefferson, NC, 2007.

The Heritage Statehood Collection of U.S. Commemorative Quarters and Stamps, Mystic Stamp Co., 2000.

Wildlife Notebook Series, Alaska Department of Fish & Game: <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us>

