

# Alaska Native History, Cultures, and Traditions Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. Which area is associated with the Great Depression-era relocation program in Alaska?**
  - A. Copper River Basin**
  - B. Alaska Range**
  - C. Matanuska Valley, Palmer area**
  - D. Chugach Mountains**
  
- 2. In what year was the first permanent Russian settlement established in Alaska?**
  - A. 1784**
  - B. 1774**
  - C. 1790**
  - D. 1800**
  
- 3. Who was the first European to discover or step foot in Alaska?**
  - A. Vitus Berring**
  - B. George William Stellers**
  - C. Vitus Bering**
  - D. James Cook**
  
- 4. From which states did the new Alaska farming families come?**
  - A. Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan**
  - B. Alaska, Washington, Oregon**
  - C. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania**
  - D. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio**
  
- 5. In which region did the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake occur?**
  - A. Alaska**
  - B. Hawaii**
  - C. California**
  - D. Oregon**

- 6. Where does the Alaska Pipeline begin?**
- A. Anchorage**
  - B. Kenai**
  - C. Nome**
  - D. Prudhoe Bay and North Slope**
- 7. How long are bowhead whales believed to live?**
- A. 50 years**
  - B. 100 years**
  - C. 150 years**
  - D. 200 years**
- 8. Which statement about Prudhoe Bay is true?**
- A. It is located on the Alaska Peninsula and is the largest oil field in North America.**
  - B. It is located on the Kenai Peninsula and is the largest oil field in North America.**
  - C. It is located on the North Slope and is the largest oil field in North America.**
  - D. It is located on the North Slope and is not the largest oil field.**
- 9. Which city in Alaska did the Japanese bomb during World War II?**
- A. Anchorage**
  - B. Sitka**
  - C. Nome**
  - D. Dutch Harbor**
- 10. Another nickname newspapers used for the Alaska purchase was which of the following?**
- A. Swards Folly**
  - B. Swards Icebox**
  - C. Polar Bear Garden**
  - D. Frozen Deal**

## Answers

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1. C
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. D
8. C
9. D
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which area is associated with the Great Depression-era relocation program in Alaska?**

- A. Copper River Basin**
- B. Alaska Range**
- C. Matanuska Valley, Palmer area**
- D. Chugach Mountains**

The situation tests knowledge of where the Great Depression-era relocation effort in Alaska was centered. In the 1930s, a federal project moved families from the Midwest to Alaska to create a planned farming community, known as the Matanuska Colony. They were brought to the Matanuska Valley near Palmer, where housing, schools, and infrastructure were built to support a new agricultural community. That emphasis on establishing a farming settlement in the Matanuska Valley near Palmer is what ties this relocation program to that particular area. The other regions—Copper River Basin, the Alaska Range, and the Chugach Mountains—are important Alaska regions, but they were not the site of this New Deal relocation colony.

**2. In what year was the first permanent Russian settlement established in Alaska?**

- A. 1784**
- B. 1774**
- C. 1790**
- D. 1800**

The main idea is when Russia first established a lasting presence in Alaska, not just a temporary expedition. Grigory Shelikhov founded a permanent outpost at Three Saints Bay on Kodiak Island in 1784, marking the first enduring Russian settlement in Alaska. This outpost became a base for the fur trade and set in motion Russia's broader colonization of the region, eventually leading to the establishment of Novo-Arkhangelsk (Sitka) near the end of the century. The other years aren't the first permanent settlement: they either precede the event or come after, but 1784 is the year that marks the inaugural permanent Russian foothold.

**3. Who was the first European to discover or step foot in Alaska?**

- A. Vitus Bering**
- B. George William Stellers**
- C. Vitus Bering**
- D. James Cook**

Georg Wilhelm Steller is the best answer because he was the German naturalist who joined Vitus Bering's Russian expedition and became the first European to set foot on Alaska's shores in 1741. His careful observations of the land, plants, and animals provided the first detailed European account of Alaska, making him the trailblazer in European contact with the region. While Bering led the voyage and mapped parts of the area, it was Steller who actually landed and documented what was there. James Cook visited Alaska later, on a separate set of voyages, so Steller's landing stands out as the earliest well-documented European arrival in Alaska.

**4. From which states did the new Alaska farming families come?**

- A. Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan**
- B. Alaska, Washington, Oregon**
- C. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania**
- D. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio**

In the 1930s a federal colonization effort aimed to boost Alaska's agriculture by bringing farming families from the Midwest to the Matanuska Valley near Palmer. These families came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, chosen for their farming experience and readiness to adapt to Alaska's short growing season and cold climate. The program, part of New Deal relief and development, relocated over 200 families, giving them land, equipment, and support to start farms and establish a new rural community in Alaska. The other regions listed in the options are not the source of these specific colonists; the Midwest states provided the new farming families that helped seed agricultural life in that part of Alaska.

**5. In which region did the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake occur?**

- A. Alaska**
- B. Hawaii**
- C. California**
- D. Oregon**

The earthquake's origin is in Alaska. The 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, also known as the Good Friday earthquake, struck southern Alaska with its epicenter near Prince William Sound. It was the strongest earthquake ever recorded in North American history, with intense shaking across the region from coastal communities to interior towns. Even though tsunamis from that quake reached distant places, the seismic event itself occurred in Alaska, not in Hawaii, California, or Oregon.

**6. Where does the Alaska Pipeline begin?**

- A. Anchorage**
- B. Kenai**
- C. Nome**
- D. Prudhoe Bay and North Slope**

The pipeline begins at the Prudhoe Bay oil fields on Alaska's North Slope, the region where crude oil is first produced. From those Arctic fields, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System runs south all the way to the port at Valdez. That start point—Prudhoe Bay along the North Slope—is why this option is the best choice. Anchorage, Kenai, and Nome are not the source locations for the oil sent through the pipeline; they're along the route or nearby areas, but the oil originates in Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope.

**7. How long are bowhead whales believed to live?**

- A. 50 years
- B. 100 years
- C. 150 years
- D. 200 years**

Bowhead whales live unusually long lives for mammals. Scientists estimate that many bowheads age to about two centuries, with some individuals reaching roughly 200 years and the oldest known around 211 years old. This long lifespan is supported by multiple aging methods, such as counting growth layers in baleen plates and ear plugs, which accumulate in a way similar to tree rings and provide age estimates. In addition, rare findings like harpoon fragments embedded in old individuals offer historical evidence that these whales survive long enough to encounter historical whaling periods and later be counted as very old. Because of this strong, converging evidence, the best-supported answer is around 200 years.

**8. Which statement about Prudhoe Bay is true?**

- A. It is located on the Alaska Peninsula and is the largest oil field in North America.
- B. It is located on the Kenai Peninsula and is the largest oil field in North America.
- C. It is located on the North Slope and is the largest oil field in North America.**
- D. It is located on the North Slope and is not the largest oil field.

Prudhoe Bay sits on the North Slope of Alaska, along the Arctic coast, and it is known as the largest oil field in North America. This field's big discovery in 1968 and its subsequent development spurred extensive oil production and the creation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System to move crude to Valdez, reshaping Alaska's economy and communities. The Alaska Peninsula and the Kenai Peninsula are not where Prudhoe Bay is located, which is why the other options are incorrect. Also, Prudhoe Bay's status as the largest oil field in North America is a defining fact, so describing it as located on the North Slope and as the largest field matches the true history.

**9. Which city in Alaska did the Japanese bomb during World War II?**

- A. Anchorage
- B. Sitka
- C. Nome
- D. Dutch Harbor**

During World War II, the fighting reached the Aleutian Islands, and Japanese forces delivered air attacks on Dutch Harbor on Unalaska Island in early June 1942. This bombing stands out because it is the instance when Alaska faced direct enemy bombing in the war, whereas the other listed Alaska cities were not bombed. The attack on Dutch Harbor prompted the United States to strengthen defenses in the region and set the stage for the later Allied campaign to retake Attu and Kiska in 1943.

**10. Another nickname newspapers used for the Alaska purchase was which of the following?**

- A. Seward's Folly**
- B. Seward's Icebox**
- C. Polar Bear Garden**
- D. Frozen Deal**

The idea being tested is how the press framed a distant, cold new territory to the public. Newspapers often used playful or skeptical nicknames to express their views about new acquisitions, and Seward's Icebox directly taps into Alaska's frigid climate and vast, untapped potential. Seward's Icebox fits as the best answer because it literally and humorously portrays Alaska as a giant cold storage space, tying the land to its icy environment while still acknowledging Seward's role in the purchase. It reflects how readers perceived Alaska at the time—more about climate and curiosity than immediate value—yet it's a nickname that circulated in coverage of the deal. For context, the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 was controversial, with some calling it folly. That skepticism is captured in other famous phrases like Seward's Folly, but the option here represents the "icebox" angle that newspapers also used. The other choices aren't recognized historical nicknames for the Alaska purchase and don't fit the common press framing.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://alaskanativehistculturestraditions.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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