

## Let's Visit an Alaskan Glacier | Lesson Plan

How can we show appreciation for the beautiful places in nature, like glaciers?

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Students will understand the location and historical significance of the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier through the story of Otto and Smidge. Students will learn to value responsibility and stewardship of Earth's natural resources and ecosystems.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify the main characters and setting in *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an Alaskan Glacier*.
- Recognize the sequence of events in the story.
- Understand the history and location of the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier.
- Classify animals that live near the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier and discuss roles within the Alaskan ecosystem.
- Analyze the concept of stewardship demonstrated in the story and propose ways to practice stewardship.
- Identify key vocabulary related to the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Excursion:** a short trip
- **Juneau:** the capital of Alaska
- **Glacier:** a large formation of ice and snow that develops on land from compressed snow over centuries
- **Mendenhall Glacier:** A glacier near Juneau, Alaska, extending 12 miles long and 1.5 miles in the Tongass National Forest and Juneau Ice Field, reaching over 100 feet high.
- **Preserve:** To ensure something continues to exist by protecting it from injury, damage, or destruction.
- **Stewardship:** the responsibility and management of resources to care for and protect environmental ecosystems

**Educational Standards:** CCSS RI.K.1, RI.K.2, RI.K.7, RI.1.2, RI.1.7, RI.2.1, RI.2.3

**Academic Subject Areas:** America, American Values, History

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an Alaskan Glacier*
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an Alaskan Glacier* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an Alaskan Glacier* (Click [Here](#))



## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

### Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by showing students a picture of the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier.
2. Ask them to observe the picture and share what they know about glaciers, such as what they are and how they form.
3. Use their responses to introduce the topic of the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier for the Otto's Tales video.

### Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an Alaskan Glacier* for the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. Encourage students to identify the main characters and the setting and to think about the challenges Otto and Smidge faced.
4. Discuss what the characters learned while visiting the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier, focusing on understanding ways to appreciate the glacier and its environment.
5. If using the book, guide students through a discussion of the illustrations, asking them to describe and interpret different scenes.
6. Optional Hands-On Activity: Simulate the movement of a glacier by moving an ice cube on various surfaces. Allow students to make observations and hypotheses about how glaciers move and change over time.

### Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students to color a page featuring the Mendenhall Alaskan Glacier or characters from the story.
2. Assess comprehension and encourage storytelling skills by asking students to retell the story in their own words. Use guiding questions that assess recall and understanding of the story's themes, such as the importance of stewardship and how to apply these lessons in our daily lives to appreciate the beauty of our planet.

## **Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)**

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.