### **FAQ'S**



Penguins live in the South Pole, not Alaska.

Alaska became the 49th state in 1959.

The strongest earthquake in North

America occurred here on Good Friday, 1964. It registered 9.2 on the Richter scale.

Alaska is 2 ½ times larger than Texas. If Alaska was split in half Texas would be the third largest state.

There are 139 communities in Alaska who collect their own water to use on a daily basis.

Individuals in 163 communities in Alaska manage their own sewage.

There are at least 65 communities without access to running water.

Alaska could hold the 21 smallest states.

Seventeen of the 20 highest mountains in North America are in Alaska.

There are:

- 3,000 rivers three million lakes
- 5,000 glaciers 70 active volcanoes

The distance from Point Barrow to Ketchikan is further than Seattle to Mexico.

Alaska is the:

- northern most state
- the westernmost state (Amatignak Island) the easternmost state (Semisopochnoi

There are three major native cultures:

- Eskimo
- Indian
- Aleut

each having numerous sub-cultures.

The majority of communities have no road access. They are accessed by airplane, boat, train, snow machine or ATV. Many communities do not have electricity, indoor plumbing or running water.

Alaska has one million acres of land for every day of the year.

Alaska has a unique climate. Some communities can accumulate 300 inches of rain and 30 feet of snow a year. In Barrow, there are three months of 24-hours-a-day sunlight and three months of 24-hours-a-day darkness. Temperatures can range from -100 °F to 100 °F.

There are 97 different languages spoken in the Anchorage school district.

Towns and villages in an area constituting 51% of the land mass of Alaska is without a local Southern Baptist church.

Alaska has one of the highest rates of alcoholism, teen pregnancy, incest, sexual assault, and suicide of anywhere in the US.

## 2014 Census figures

State Population	739,989
Anchorage	300,950
Fairbanks	100,343
Juneau (state capital)	31,275

Foreign- born population 49,319
 As of 2010 about 35.1 percent of Alaska's foreign-born population had arrived in the state since 2009.

2011 data indicates that 51.5 percent of the foreign-born population in Alaska were naturalized citizens.



## **Alaska Baptist Convention** 2014 Fact Sheet Churches

26

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City/town congregations	86
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	City/town congregations Bush community congregations ongregations with average attendance of more than 501 301-500 201-300 101-200 51-100 1-50

Ethnic/Cultural Groups in Alaska: 120 Communities Without an Evangelical Congregation: 100

Other Ministries

Cowboy

Sudanese

Slavic

Missions

Preaching Points

Baptist Student Union

University of Alaska, Fairbanks University of Alaska, Southeast

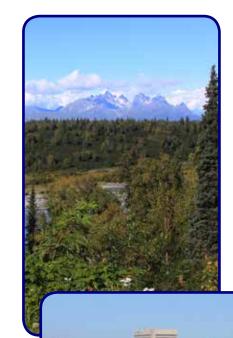
- Laverne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp, Wasilla
- Camp Baldwin, Fairbanks
- Orton Ranch, Ketchikan
- Alaska Baptist Family Services, Anchorage
- Alaska Baptist Foundation

#### **Photo Credits** Black Wolf Sharon Larson Three Otters Iulie Slaton Trumpeter Swans Sharon Larson Common Loon Sharon Larson Wilderness Mountain Range Svlvia Rvlander Anchorage Sylvia Rylander Bear Sharon Larson Eagles Julie Slaton Fireweed Sylvia Rylander Dall Sheep Sylvia Rylander Mount Susitna Sylvia Rylander Three Bears Alan Dial **Julie Slaton** Bull Moose

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The Great

### WELCOME TO ALASKA

We aren't really that different...however... here are a few words, slang, or facts it may be helpful to know. That way, you'll understand what folks up here are saying and learn a few factoids about the "Last Frontier."

### Local Vocabulary

**Break Up** is the END OF WINTER!!! It refers to the time of year when the ice and snow begin to melt and we find out if we have a paved street or not.

**Cheechako** is a newcomer to Alaska. It is actually a mispronunciation of early missionaries, miners and trappers from Chicago who were called Cheechakos.

**Dipnetting** is fishing using a big net attached to a long handled pole. It is best done on the Chitina River or the Kenai in June and July.

Eagles are still considered endangered. It is illegal to possess any part of an eagle unless you are an Alaskan Native.





Fireweed is the unofficial state flower. It is a weed that grows wild and is also known as "flaming arrow" in Arizona. Legend has it the snow will be as deep as the fireweed is tall and after the fireweed tops out, there are six weeks until snow flies.

**Interior** is the central part of the state and is a place of extremes: sunlight, darkness, cold, snow, bugs, etc.

**King** is the biggest of all freshwater game fish to be had in Alaska, the King Salmon. It is pronounced "sam-on", no "L" sound.



**Lower 48** are the 48 contiguous states (not including Hawaii.)

Outside is anywhere other than Alaska and refers to leaving the state to go somewhere else: "I'm going Outside for a couple of weeks to visit family or to get away from cabin fever."



Willow Ptarmigan, an arcite grouse, is the official state bird

**Reds** are the best tasting of all the salmon and are best caught on a fly rod with hand-tied flies.



**Sleeping Lady** is the name of a mountain near Cook Inlet. (Legend says an Alaska Native woman died and became a mountain waiting for her love to come back.) It is also known as Mount Susitna.

**Sourdough** is someone who has lived in Alaska a long time and is now sour on snow and cold but doesn't have enough dough to leave. Also, a main cooking ingredient early miners and trappers used to make sourdough bread and pancakes.

**Southeast** is the part of Alaska that is home to our state capital, Juneau, which you can only reach by plane or boat.



**Termination Dust** is the first snow in the fall that remains on the mountains. It's a sure sign of rapidly approaching winter at ground level. The phrase was coined by early miners and construction workers when it was time to terminate work or be snowedin.

**The Slope** is the uppermost part of Alaska, above the Arctic Circle where oil was discovered, as in Prudhoe Bay, Barrow, Deadhorse, and "my husband works on the Slope."

Two On/Two Off or two on two, or three and two, refers to a work schedule for the Slope where people work two weeks and are off for two weeks at a time.

