

ROZZY READERS

**BOAT CAPTAIN:
KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK
6-8**

Section 1: Boat Captain

Boat Captain



A person who is in charge of a ship or a boat. The captain of a ship or boat ensures that the boat is running properly and that the crew and passengers are safe.

National Parks



National parks are parks in the United States that have been created by the government. The government created national parks so that it could keep the plants and animals that live there safe.

Kenai Fjords National Park



A national park in Alaska that was created to protect the Harding Icefield and the glaciers and fjords that are located there.

Career Highlight:

Boat Captain

A **captain** is a person who is in charge of a ship or a boat.

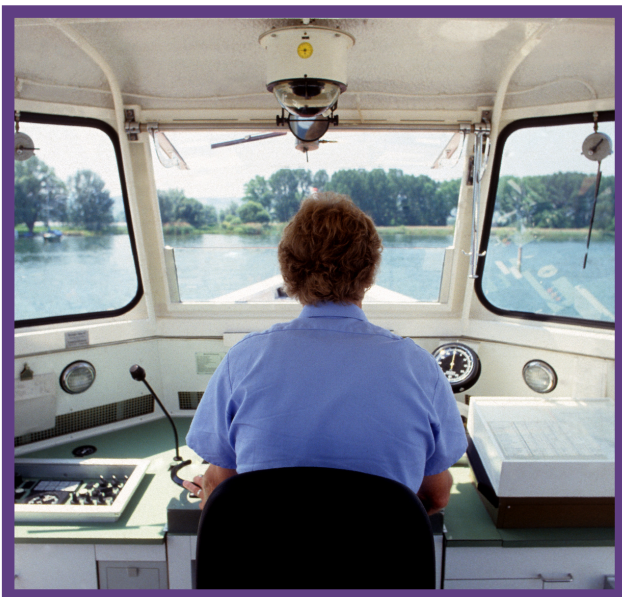
The captain of a ship or boat ensures that the boat is running properly and that the crew and passengers are safe. A boat captain working at Kenai Fjords National Park helps other scientists to explore areas of the park that are only able to be reached by boat.

Responsibilities include:

- Steer and navigate the boat safely.
- Assess the weather conditions to make sure it is safe to be out on the water.
- Map out routes to the different locations that the boat is going.

Education required:

To be a boat captain you must have boating experience, pass a U.S. Coast Guard-approved exam, and complete the necessary forms and medical exams.



Content Check:

Boat Captain

Answer the questions below about boat captains using complete sentences.

1. What does a boat captain do?

2. Why is a boat captain needed at Kenai Fjords National Park?

3. Would you enjoy being a boat captain at Kenai Fjords National Park? Why or why not?

Section 2:

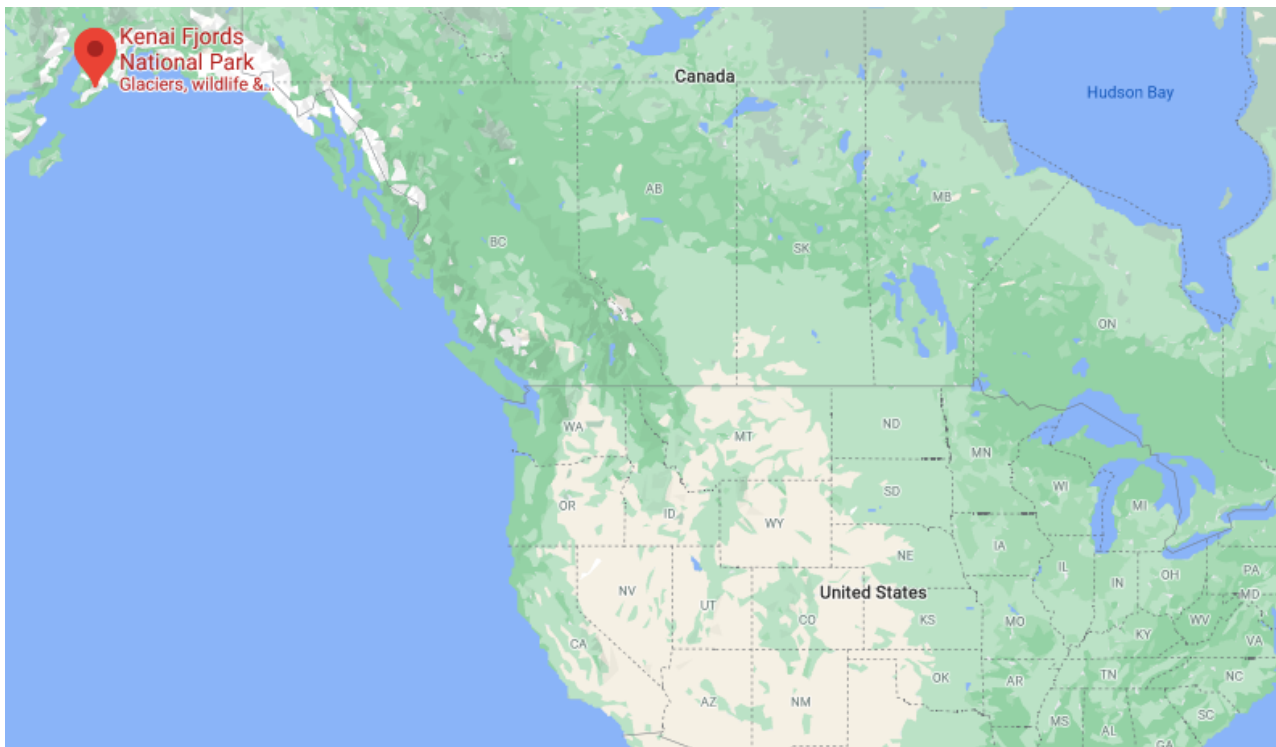
Kenai Fjords National Park

Imagine that you just got a job as a boat captain at Kenai Fjords National Park. Learn about Kenai Fjords National Park and the animals and plants who live there to prepare yourself for your new role!

Learn: Zion National Park

LOCATION:

Kenai Fjords National Park is located in the state of Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula. It is about 130 miles south of Anchorage.



QUICK FACTS:

Kenai Fjords National Park was made a national park in 1980. It was created to protect the Harding Icefield and the glaciers and fjords that are located there. The park also helps to protect the homes of the animals who live within the park.



HISTORY:

- The first people to live in the area were the Alutiiq people, or Sugpiaq. There is evidence that shows that they have lived in this area for centuries.
- Descendants of the Alutiiq people still live in the area today in the communities of Nanwalek and Port Graham.
- People of Russian descent settled this area in the late 1700s.
- In 1867 the United States purchased Alaska and further settled the area.

ECOSYSTEMS

Kenai Fjords National Park can be divided into three zones: coast, temperate rainforest, and alpine tundra.

COAST:

Off the coast of the park you will find marine animals such as sea otters, steller sea lions, harbor seals, and orcas. You may see trees and plants such as the sitka spruce, devil's club, and salmonberry growing along the coast.



Stellar Sea Lions



Salmonberry



Breaching Orca
(Killer Whale)

TEMPERATE RAINFOREST

The temperate rainforests in the park receive between 80- 150 inches of rain per year. In this zone you will find animals such as black bears, brown bears, beavers, snowshoe hares, and moose. The Sitka spruce is the most common tree in this rainforest. You may also see plants such as hemlock, bunchberry, mountain cranberry, and devil's club crowd the forest floor.



Sitka Spruce



Snowshoe Hare



Brown Bear



Mountain Cranberry

ALPINE TUNDRA

The alpine tundra is a treeless area that goes from the treeline to the mountain peaks. The majority of the area is rock. Cold temperatures and wind limit the plants and animals that live there. Plants that live there tend to be slow growing groundcover plants. By staying close to the ground they are able to avoid the wind and stay warm. A few examples of plants in the alpine tundra are blueberries and crowberries. Animals that you may see in this zone are dall sheep, mountain goats, and caribou.



Mountain Goats



Blueberries



Caribou

VISITING TODAY

Today, people visit Kenai Fjords National Park to view and explore the Harding Icefield and the glaciers. The Harding Icefield is the largest icefield that is entirely within the United States. It has at least 38 glaciers.

In addition, many visitors come to the park to participate in outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, boat tours, and kayaking.



Kayaking



Boat Tour

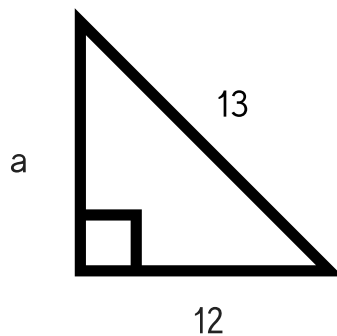
Section 3:

Math Practice-Pythagorean Theorem

Imagine that you are a boat captain at Kenai Fjords National Park. You take researchers to different locations around the park. Use the Pythagorean Theorem to find the distances between each location.

Note: These distances are fictional.

Look at the example below of how to use The Pythagorean Theorem to find an unknown side of a triangle.



Plug the information you know into the formula.

(Reminder: A and B are the legs and C is the hypotenuse)

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$a^2 + 12^2 = 13^2$$

Do the math and plug in your new answers.

$$a^2 + 3^2 = c^2$$

$$a^2 + 144 = 169$$

Subtract the known side from the hypotenuse.

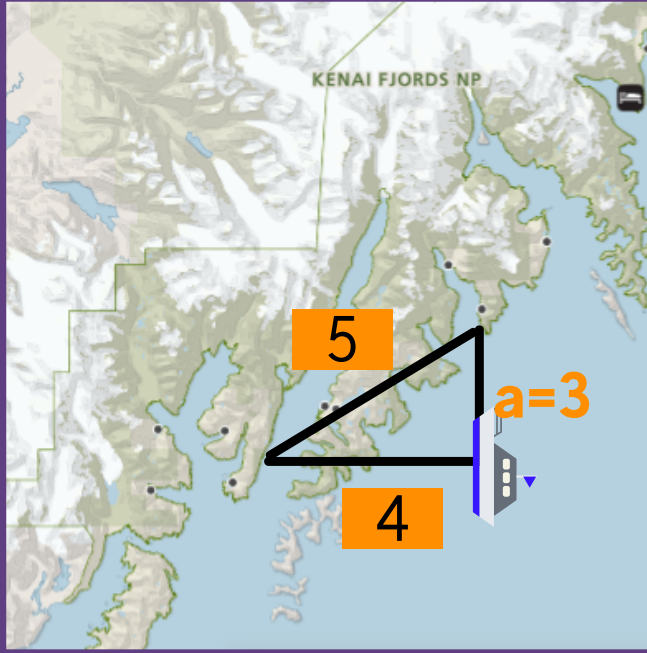
Then, find the square root of your answer.

$$169 - 144 = 25$$

$$\sqrt{25} = \sqrt{a}$$
$$5 = a$$

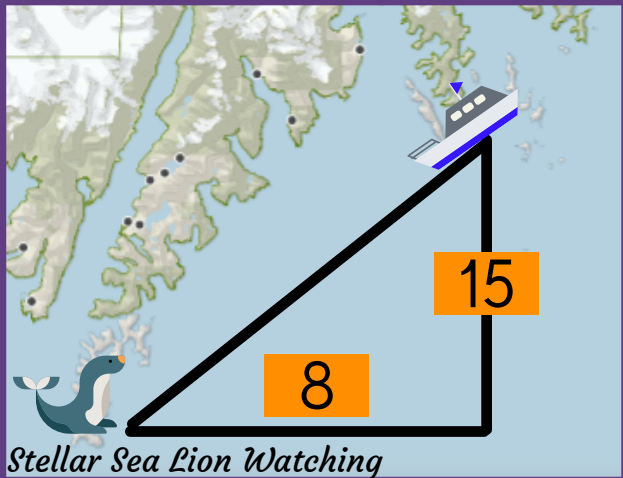
Look at the example of how to use The Pythagorean Theorem to find the distance to your next location below.

EXAMPLE:

	$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
	$a^2 + 4^2 = 5^2$
	$a^2 + 16 = 25$
	$25 - 16 = 9$
	$\sqrt{9} = \sqrt{a}$ $3 = a$

Use The Pythagorean Theorem to find the distance between locations below. Show your work in the purple box.

1

	
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2

Orca Whale Watching

A map of the Pacific Northwest coast of North America shows a right-angled triangle. The vertical leg is labeled with the number 8, and the horizontal leg is labeled with the number 6. A black and white orca is shown swimming below the triangle. A boat is positioned at the top-right vertex of the triangle.

3

Harbor Seal

A map of the Pacific Northwest coast of North America shows a right-angled triangle. The vertical leg is labeled with the number 32, and the horizontal leg is labeled with the number 24. A brown harbor seal is shown swimming below the triangle. A boat is positioned at the top-right vertex of the triangle.

4

Humpback Whale Watching

A map of the Pacific Northwest coast of North America shows a right-angled triangle. The vertical leg is labeled with the number 26, and the horizontal leg is labeled with the number 24. A blue humpback whale is shown swimming below the triangle. A boat is positioned at the top-right vertex of the triangle.

Section 4:

ELA Practice-

Writing Informational Texts

Imagine that you are a boat captain at Kenai Fjords National Park. You often give visitors boat tours to show them the beautiful scenery and teach them about the park. Today, you are going to write a pamphlet about the park that visitors can read. Learn about what your pamphlet must include on the next slide.

Summarize the information you have learned about Kenai Fjords National Park to create an in pamphlet for visitors. A pamphlet is a small booklet that contains information about one subject.

Your pamphlet must meet the following requirements:

- Have a minimum of ten sentences
- Be written in a formal tone
- Use correct grammar
- Be written using your own words
- Teach visitors about the following:
 - Why the park was created
 - History of the park
 - Ecosystems present in the park
 - Plants and animals that live in the park
 - Things visitors can do today

Write your pamphlet on the next page.

Kenai Fjords National Park