

# The Iditarod:

The Iditarod is an Alaskan race. In that race "mushers" drive sleds pulled by dogs. A musher is a person who competes in that race, in each team there's one musher and up to 16 dogs.

Each team follows a trail which goes all the way from Anchorage to Nome, 1770 kilometers. The race lasts 10-14 days and takes place in some of the wildest and the coldest places in the world.

The Iditarod can also be difficult and dangerous: it may be the longest trail in the world. For almost 2 weeks the mushers sleep for only about 2 hours a night. The cold is very dangerous, so are the wind, snow and ice. The teams may fall over a cliff or be attacked by an angry animal.

There are also physical and mental difficulties - the musher is all alone in the frozen fields and he has to control 16 dogs!

This race takes place because of 3 main reasons:

1. Mushers are people who love excitement.
2. The mushers want to keep the Inuit tradition of dogsledding alive.
3. People in Alaska want to remember another race, which took place in 1925: hundreds of children in Nome became very sick with a disease called Diphtheria. The only medicine for that sickness was in Anchorage, so brave mushers reached Anchorage by dogsled, brought the medicine to Nome and saved the sick children.

## Opinions:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
The dogs are well suited to the cold climate and they are well cared. The mushers and the dogs have a very special relationship, the mushers always make sure that their dogs are safe, rested and fed. In addition, the dogs are checked periodically by veterinaries along the trail.	The dogs are driven to the limits of their strength for many days without the proper rest or care. The dogs get praise and encouragement from the mushers, and they run even faster and pull even harder - what can harm them.