

# Some ABCs

By RON INOUE

## In education

*Editor's Note: This will be the final column in this series. The author has enjoyed preparing the weekly series for the past three years and appreciated the phone calls, written comments and questions from Tundra Times readers in Alaska, Canada and even Denmark.*

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As a parent or teacher, have you received a copy of the **Environmental Education Resources Directory for Alaska**? This informative 67-page booklet is the result of the 1978 Governor's Conference on Environmental Education, and according to the foreword, was "...designed to give Alaskan environmental educators fingertip access to information concerning education resources well suited for use in Alaska." Organized by Kristi Kantola, Dolores Moulton, Marti Early and Mary Lou King, the free publication was produced and is available without charge from the United States Forest Service, Office of Information, P.O. Box 1628, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Copies were previously mailed to every school in the state; check your school library for an existing copy.

The **Directory** provides information useful for educators and parents. Librarians purchasing books for school collections, and parents anticipating a youngster's birthday may find one of the book listings appropriate. Books about seals and whales, edible wild plants, how to identify birds and many other subjects are annotated with sufficient information for ordering.

The **Directory** also has information related not only to the classroom but also lists degree programs in environmental education for teachers, state and federal agencies with environmental programs and the names and addresses of people across the state active in environmental education programs. Parents and teachers anticipating field trips or vacations with their children could consult the listings of camps in the state where students can observe different environmental systems and the addresses for museums where special tours might be arranged.

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And the Directory also lists places where audio-visual materials may be obtained. The use of posters and other visual materials may interest students as part of special hall displays or window exhibits in stores; films could be shown during recess, lunch hours and in the public library.

Students in your school might organize an "Environmental Awareness Week" for their classmates, the school and the community. Classes could use their own disciplines to study the local environment, culminating in a public presentation for members of other classes and the community. For example, a science class might study local biological phenomena, the English composition class might use environmental issues as topics for writing exercises, and the music class might listen and play music portraying the sounds of nature. The government class might research local public issues related to the environment, the speech class could openly debate them. An art display could be exhibited in the community showing how students of different ages and using different art forms portray the immediate environment. The final activity could be a school and community program with an open house during which students relate what they've learned during the "Environmental Awareness Week."

Studying and learning about the local environment may be a very special way in which students in your community and in your family find learning to be exciting and important. The **Environmental Education Resources Directory** for Alaska and your own ideas could develop that very special environmental education project for your own children, your students and your community.