



Learning Together: Berries



A note for teachers:

The following Learning Together activities to share with families is designed to accompany [Sealaska Heritage Institute's elementary-level thematic units on Berries](#) featuring Lingít, Yugtun, and Inupiat languages, cultures, and history.

These activities are designed to help students share with their families what they are learning in school and provide a way for families to send a little of “home” back to school.

Research shows that this type of teacher-designed interactive “homework” is one of the most effective ways to engage families in their children’s learning.

Feel free to adapt these resources or to submit your translations to afec@asasb.org to include in this resource. For more information and additional resources, visit www.AlaskaFEC.org.

Gunalchéesh! Quyana! Quyanaq!

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Learning Together: Berries

What we're learning at school

Alaska has abundant resources, and Alaska Native people developed food-gathering techniques around these seasonal resources, including fish, berries, and game. At school, we are learning about gathering berries and the different ways they are used.

Words we're speaking in Lingít

Tléikw (berries)
Tleikw yee.ín (pick berries)
Kanat'á (blueberries)
Shákw (strawberries)
Was'x'aan tliégu (salmonberry)
Kaxwéix (high bush cranberries)

Words we're speaking in Inupiat

Asiat (berries)
Asiaq (stem for to pick berries)
Asiaqtut (they are picking berries)
Asiaviit (blueberries)
Ivgum asiaḡat (strawberries)
Aqpik (salmonberry/cloudberry)
Aqpiit (plural salmonberries/cloudberries)
Uqpiḡñat (highbush cranberries)

Words we're speaking in Yugtun

Atsat (berries)
Iqvaq (pick berries)
Curat (blueberries)
Atsalugpiat (salmonberries)
Tumalglit (cranberries)
Asiaqtut (they are picking berries)

What words are used in your region to describe berries?

Conversation starters

You heard some blueberry stories at school. What happens in a story about blueberries?

Why are berries important to you and to people who live in Alaska?

What are some yummy things you can make with berries?

[ADULT] Share about a berry picking adventure you have had, or make up a funny story about berry picking.



Fun things to do at home

1. **Pick berries!** Take a walk together and look for berry bushes. If in season, pick some berries. If not, guess which bushes are berry bushes. How can you tell? What kinds of berry bushes did you find?
2. **Make a Berry Bucket!**
 - a. Find an empty plastic container, like a yogurt container.
 - b. Make two holes in the rim.
 - c. Tie a string on the holes to hang it around your neck.
3. **Take a Berry Poll!**
 What kind of berry is the most popular in your family? Have your learner ask family and friends and record and count their data on the form below to determine your family's favorite berry.

Name of Family Member	Blueberry 	Strawberry 	Cranberry 	Salmonberry 	Other
Total					

.....
 Cut along the dotted line

Add to our box of knowledge (return this portion to school): What does your family like to make with berries? We would love for you to add a recipe to our class's berry cookbook. Write the recipe here or on another sheet of paper: