

Felt Berry Stories

Tell your berry story with a felt board!



Alaskans have a special relationship with berries. Telling our own berry stories helps us to better understand how berries are changing with shifting seasons, and to prepare for the future.

Materials Needed:

Blue felt (background piece), felt pieces in various colors, *Alaska Berry Facts* sheet, scissors.

Instructions:

Step 1: Find Your Berry Story

Look at the *Alaska Berry Facts* sheet. Think of a memory or experience that involved berries. What is your berry story?

Step 2: Felting Your Story

- Use the felt pieces to create a symbol or image of your berry story.
- Place your symbol on the blue felt background. You can also decorate the background to look like a landscape, or add more berry stories!
- Tell your story to friends and family! Invite them to make their own berry story symbols and add them to the felt board.
- Use your board to make new scenes and share new stories!



Step 3: Changing Berry Stories

Imagine your story if the timing of the berries had been earlier. Would your story be the same? What would change? Write or draw about what would change, then re-tell your story.



Alaska Berry Facts

On average, rural Alaska families harvest five gallons of berries each year. Many families routinely pick over twenty gallons.



Across Alaska, tribal environmental leaders and elders report many species of wild berries as more variable and less abundant this decade than in past decades.



Over the past 100 years, the timing of blueberry flowering and fruiting has become more variable, based on data from herbarium specimens.



Most Important Berries by Region

Interior Boreal

1. Lowbush blueberry
2. Lowbush cranberry
3. Raspberry

Arctic Tundra

1. Cloudberry
2. Crowberry
3. Lowbush blueberry

Southern Maritime

1. Salmonberry
2. Highbush blueberry

