

## Activity and Teacher's Guide:

### **Big-Enough Anna: The Little Sled Dog Who Braved the Arctic**

Written by Pam Flowers with Ann Dixon, Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth

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*Big-Enough Anna* introduces children four years and older to the life of a dog sled team and their musher, Pam Flowers. As they work together to cross the Arctic, the littlest sled dog, Anna, proves that determination is more important than size. Students will learn more about the excitement, challenges, and hardships of the Arctic using the following activities. Enjoy!

### **Reading/Writing/Language Arts**

1. Read *Big-Enough Anna* and answer the following questions:
  - Who is the main character of this story? Describe this character.
  - What expedition is Anna preparing for? How many miles long is the expedition?
  - What positions does Anna hold amongst the sled dog team throughout the story?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of each position? Explain.
  - What happens to the lead dog Duggie? How does this affect Anna?
  - What happens to Anna when they try to cross the frozen sea? What is the outcome?
2. A moral is described as a teaching or lesson contained in a story or experience. Do you think that this story about Anna has a moral message? Write what you think it is in detail.
3. Write or draw a picture about an adventure you experienced with your pet. If you do not own a pet, make one up and describe a journey you would like to make together.
4. Write a Diamond poem about anything relating to the *Big-Enough Anna* story using the following instructions:



Line 1 - A one word noun

Line 2 - 2 adjectives that describe the noun

Line 3 - 3 verbs that the noun does

Line 4 - 4 things (nouns) that the top noun and the bottom noun has

Line 5 - 3 verbs that the bottom noun does

Line 6 - 2 adjectives that the describes the bottom noun

Line 7 - A one word noun that is opposite the top noun

#### Example:

	dog
	friendly, big
barking,	playing, licking
tail, fur,	tongue, collar
sleeping,	purring, meowing
furry, silky	cat

### **Science/Natural History**

1. What kind of dog do you think Anna is? A poodle, a beagle?
2. What kind of animals can be found in the Arctic? Are some animals found only in the Arctic?
  - a. What kind of food do they eat?
  - b. In what kind of homes do they live?
  - c. What sounds do they make?
  - d. What do their tracks look like?
  - e. Do they migrate?
  - f. Draw a picture to illustrate your answers.
3. Learn about the seasons in the Arctic and how the sun relates to the amount of daylight. When is it the lightest? When is it the darkest?



### **Geography**

1. Where is the location of the expedition that Anna leads? Can you find it on a map?
2. Where did the author Pam Flowers start her expedition and where did she end?
3. Can you name all of the communities along the expedition trail?
4. Place a map of North America on the wall in your classroom and draw a red line marking the expedition trail Pam and Anna made. Give each student a pushpin and have them find a city that they have actually been to that is closest to any city found along the expedition trail and place the pushpin in that city. After each student has marked a city, have them determine the difference in miles between that city and a city on the trail. Determine which student has been the closest to the expedition trail.

## Math

1. The expedition in the Arctic took Pam and Anna across 2,500 miles. If they left February 14, 1993, stopped on June 9 where they were forced to wait for the ice to harden until December 5, and finished January 9, 1994, how many days total did it take them to finish?
2. Determine the average number of miles they traveled each month. (Hint: Divide the total days by 5 months.)
3. Anna and the other dogs ate 2 ½ lbs of dog food a day. Using your answer from Question 1, determine how much food Anna ate during the expedition.

## Art

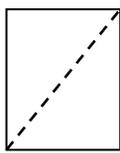
1. Make a diorama of the Arctic.

*Supplies:* shoe box (or similar sized box), construction paper or tempera paint, scissors, glue, pencil, crayons, cotton balls (for clouds)

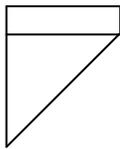
Go to [www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama) for many creative ideas.

2. Write a message to Pam Flowers about her journey through the Arctic with Anna on a handmade dog card that looks like Anna! Go to [www.pamflowers.com](http://www.pamflowers.com) for a current address.

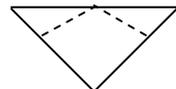
*Supplies:* card stock or construction paper, scissors, glue, markers or crayons, googly eyes



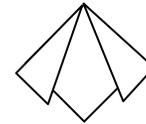
To start making a square, fold the corner of a piece of paper over.



To finish making the square, cut off the small rectangle, forming a square (which is already folded into a triangle).



Fold over two triangles (to make the dog's ears).



Put a face on your dog. Gluing on googly eyes gives the dog a cute look. You can write messages under the ears and on the inside of your new card.



## Other Activities

1. Invite a dog musher to your school and ask him/her to give a presentation over their many journeys he/she experienced. Ask him/her about life as a musher.
2. Divide the class into groups of 5 or 6 and design a board or card game representing events in *Big-Enough Anna*. After students have finished, rotate the different games throughout the groups. Enjoy playing the games during indoor recess.

**Pam Flowers** has completed numerous adventures, including the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®. With author Ann Dixon, she co-wrote *Alone Across the Arctic*, a memoir of her solo 2,500 mile journey across North America's arctic coast. She lives in Talkeetna, Alaska. [www.pamflowers.com](http://www.pamflowers.com)



Coauthor **Ann Dixon** has written eight books, including the best-selling *Blueberry Shoe* (National Outdoor Book Award and Parents Guide to Children's Media Award) and *The Sleeping Lady* (PNBA award, Parent Council selection), and *Winter Is*. Ann lives in Homer, Alaska. [www.anndixon.net](http://www.anndixon.net) (Photo by Sonja Sones)



**Bill Farnsworth** is the illustrator of many children's books including an American Girl series starring a Nez Perce girl named Kaya. [www.billfarnsworth.com](http://www.billfarnsworth.com)