This painting by Apayo Moore can be found on the side of a building in Dillingham, Alaska. What do you see in this painting that can tell you about the life of people who live in Dillingham?

If you travel to Dillingham, you will see over 100 smaller paintings by families, youth, and adults near Apayo’s painting. The small tiles show qualities of life that help young people become successful, caring and responsible adults. Draw, color or paint your own tile that illustrates something that helps you in your life. (Ex: family, teachers and other adults in your life, after-school activities, caring school environment, quality time at home).

Teacher’s Note: The Dillingham mural project incorporates the Developmental Assets® Framework compiled by the Search InstituteSM of Minnesota. Learn more about these assets at the Association of Alaska School Board’s Initiative for Community Engagement page: http://alaskaice.org/

Teacher’s Guide for Grades K-2

Day in Our Bay - the film

Alaska Native cultures are living, thriving ways of life for thousands of people, many of whom live in a vast wilderness. Day in Our Bay is a documentary that offers a rare glimpse into the lives of Alaska Natives from the Bristol Bay region of Alaska.

Through the documentary, short clips and accompanying booklet, students can learn about Native ways of life from Native people who have chosen to tell their own stories. Using this guide, teachers can lead students through activities and discussions that provide a deeper understanding of themes touched on in the film, with opportunities for students to explore further and make connections to their own lives.

Resources for teachers
• Day in Our Bay DVD
• DayinOurBay.org
• Day in Our Bay booklet: an inside guide to the movie

Goal of the Day in Our Bay project
To share the story of Bristol Bay and create a dialogue about living in Bristol Bay, the importance of tradition and culture to the people, and the work to pass knowledge to future generations

More about the project
Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) created the Day in Our Bay project as part of its 40th anniversary celebration to highlight the lives of its shareholders from their points of view.
BBNC provided cameras and workshops with video mentors to give Bristol Bay residents tools and tips for digital storytelling. The completed project debuted at the Anchorage International Film Festival in 2012, and has since received positive reviews at national and international film festivals.

Topic: Learning from elders
1. Before watching Day in Our Bay, talk to students about how we learn at school and also learn many things at home. Ask them to give examples of things they’ve learned from their parents, grandparents or other family members.
2. Ask students to look for examples in Day in Our Bay of parents or grandparents teaching young people about traditional ways of life in Bristol Bay.
3. Discuss these examples as a group. Students may have additional examples from their own lives to share.
4. Ask students to choose one thing from the Day in Our Bay video that they think would be interesting or fun to learn. When they grow up, what things do they want to teach others?

Topic: What is subsistence?
1. In Day in Our Bay, Bristol Bay residents talk about subsistence as a way of life. Living off the land is important to the people of Bristol Bay, but it isn’t easy. Ask students to identify different subsistence activities shown in the film, with a focus on the work involved (ex: fishing, mending nets, preparing foods, hunting, gathering grasses, turning trout fillets).
2. Discuss how student families get food. Ask: Does your family use anything provided from the land through hunting, fishing or gathering?

For more information or resources, visit:
DayinOurBay.org
BBNC.net

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Bristol Bay Native Corporation
111 West 16th Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska  99501
Day in Our Bay - short clips

Topic: Making Native foods
1. Watch the “Akutaq” video short.
2. Working in pairs or in small groups, have children list items they would like in their own version of akutaq.
3. Discuss: Why do you think some people call akutaq “Eskimo ice cream”?
4. When you watch Diana and her children making akutaq, do you remember making food with any of your own family members?

Explore More...
Using a base of vegetable shortening and sugar, try making akutaq in the classroom with some of the ingredients your students suggested.

Using a mixing spoon, have children take turns “whipping” the shortening to a creamy consistency.

Was Diana right? Does it take a lot of strength to make akutaq? What other work did Diana have to do to make akutaq? (gathering/ preparing sourdough).

Try the akutaq. How does it taste?

Day in Our Bay - the booklet

Find and categorize! Ask students to go through the booklet and find examples for each category. Work individually or in small groups. Mark pages numbers for easy sharing during discussion.

What can we find in Bristol Bay?

Land
What does Bristol Bay look like? Can you find mountains, rivers, beaches, trees?

Art
Find art like paintings and decorations, as well as art that can be used or worn.

rocky beach - p. 10

Food
There are many examples of food in this book. Can you find them all?

Transportation
How do Bristol Bay residents move from place to place?