

SEGMENT THREE: *The Camps* for Teachers (19 minutes)

1. When the Aleuts were evacuated, where were they taken?

Possible Answers:

- Funter Bay, to an abandoned cannery and gold mining camp
- Killisnoo, Alaska, to an abandoned whaling station
- Burnett Inlet, to an abandoned cannery
- Ward Lake, to an abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps. Camp
- Wrangell Institute, a boarding school

2. What were the Aleuts' initial reactions when they arrived at Funter Bay?

Possible Answers:

- Relief. Conditions on the boat were so bad, the Aleuts were happy to be leaving the ship and returning to land
- Excitement. The environment was completely new to most Aleuts; many had never seen trees before.

3. What changed the Aleuts' feelings? Describe conditions at the camps.

Possible Answers:

- The buildings were rotting, leaking, there was no running water, no heat, no toilets, food and medical supplies were inadequate
- Relief turned to worry, despair and fear for their children's' lives and their own survival
- People began dying

4. Aleut American Jake Lestenkof, who was interned at Funter Bay, says he thought the conditions at the camps were "criminal." Why does he say that? What do you think of that statement?

- Major Gen. Lestenkof grew up to become head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska region. His experience in that job made him believe his predecessors could have done much better.
- There was no running water or heat at the camps, very little food, and inadequate medical attention.
- German prisoners of war being held at a camp nearby had better living conditions.

5. How many Aleuts were at Funter Bay?

Possible Answers:

- 479 Pribilovians
- More than half of all Aleuts evacuated from the islands

## 6. Aleuts were confined to the camps? Why?

Possible Answers:

- Authorities thought Aleuts could not adapt to living in the larger society, that Aleuts could not make good decisions
- Other officials wanted to keep the Aleuts together so they would be available to harvest Northern Fur Seals

## 7. Reporter Joseph Driscoll writes about the Aleuts' arrival at Funter Bay. What does his description of the people, place and events tell you about societal attitudes? Be sure to identify key words or phrases that are particularly revealing about that time.

Possible answers:

- "...rather touching to hear the little Aborigines singing their heads off before breakfast to prove they were just as patriotic..."
- "little yellow-skinned barbarians"

## 8. What happened to Aleuts at Wrangell?

Possible Answers:

- Aleuts were subjected to medical exams and treatments

## 9. What were conditions like for German prisoners of war at a nearby camp? Compare and contrast the Aleuts experience with that of the Germans.

Possible Answers:

- Conditions at the German POW camp were dictated by the Geneva Conventions of War, but the U.S. government did not apply the same rules to the Aleut duration camps
- Living standards were higher for the German prisoners of war
- German prisoners received regular medical care, had heat, running water, adequate food, even entertainment

## 10. The Aleuts had survived for centuries in one of the harshest climates on earth. Why was survival at the duration camps a challenge? Give examples.

Possible Answers:

- Aleuts had been forced to leave their homes hurriedly, and were limited to one small bag per person. They did not have enough basic tools and equipment, such as boats and fishing gear, to be self-reliant
- Living conditions were shocking, disease was rampant
- They were exhausted, uncertain how long they would have to remain at the camps, and actively discouraged from leaving to find a better place to live

11. What actions did the Aleuts take to try and improve their situation?

- They worked to repair the camps with limited resources
- Aleuts with medical training cared for the sick and dying
- Some men joined the military and others defied federal agents orders and left the camps to find work
- Aleut women wrote an official letter of protest and submitted it to federal officials
- They worked to maintain cultural traditions and religious practices