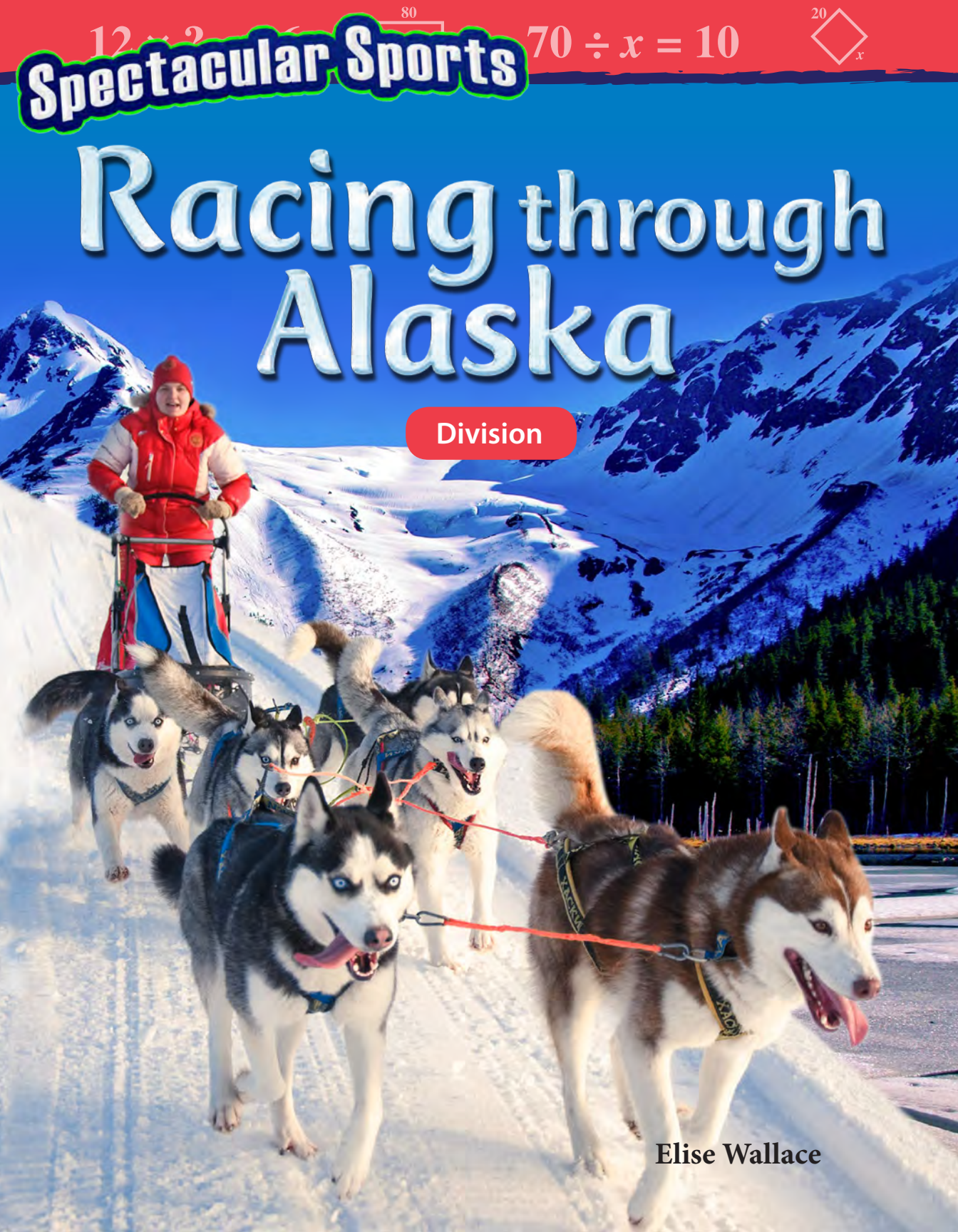
Spectacular Sports

Racing through Alaska

Division



Elise Wallace

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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Racing through Alaska

You must need to be pretty tough to compete in the Iditarod©, I think to myself. As I flip through this month's *Sports Spectacular*, a woman in a bright red jacket draws me in. She is standing on a sled as dogs run through the snow. I start to read the article about the Iditarod to my mom.



A musher leads her team in the Iditarod race.

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"Each year, people travel from around the world to run the course. However, most **mushers** live in Alaska year round. The race begins in Anchorage and ends in Nome. It is nearly a thousand miles long." *Wow, that's long!* I think to myself.

"The Iditarod is a race that is known around the world," I continue. "Every year, mushers prepare to sled across Alaska with their four-legged teammates. Together, they brave extreme weather."

"Wow, sounds like a challenge," my mom says. I nod my head in agreement.

What would it be like to compete in something like that? I wonder. Looking down at the magazine, I picture myself as the woman in the red jacket. I start to feel a little sleepy. Before long, my daydream starts to turn into a nap.



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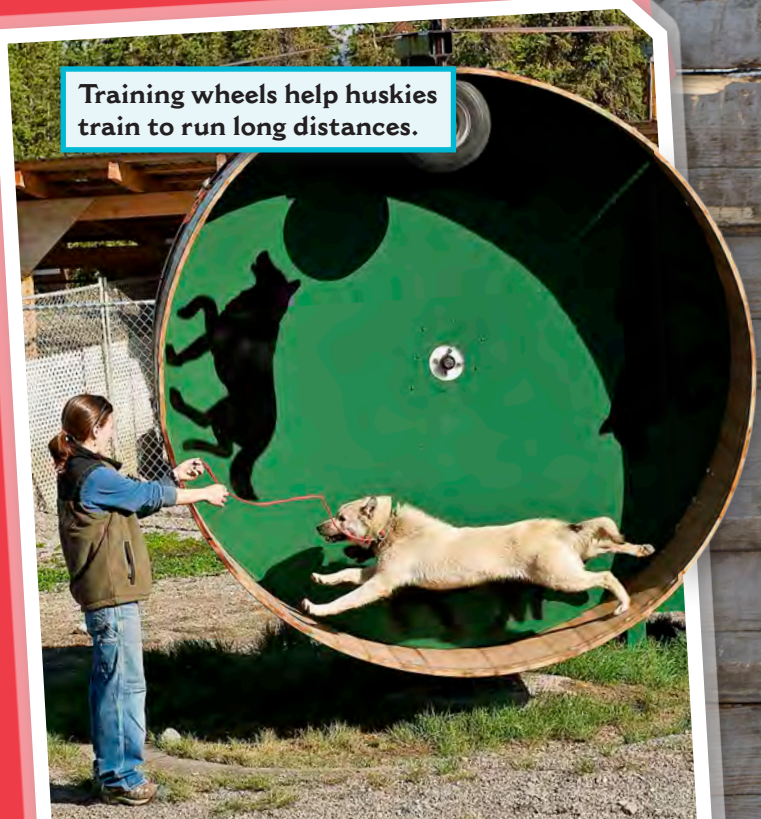
Dreaming of the Big Race

I should have trained harder.

My happy daydream has turned into thoughts of a race I don't feel prepared for. There are only a few weeks until the Iditarod, and I'm beginning to panic. I didn't train as hard as I should have in the spring. The dogs are ready, but am I?

Most people think that mushers just stand on a sled's **runners** and let the dogs do the heavy lifting. But to finish the race, a musher must be in excellent physical condition. We push and pull our sleds. Sometimes, we even pull them up steep inclines. Often, we run alongside our sleds, stomping through the snow with our teams.

Mushers also need strength and **endurance** to help their dogs—any way you can lighten the load of your sled, you must. The best way to do so is to stay fit. This makes the journey much easier for the entire team.



Training wheels help huskies train to run long distances.

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Jumping over obstacles is part of husky training.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

During two days in January, a dog-sledding team runs 246 miles. If the team runs the same distance on both days, how many miles do they run each day? Complete the area model to solve the problem.

×	____	+	____	+ ____ = ____
2	200		40	6



A musher rests in a dogsled with his lead dog.

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Triple Checking

I check my gear for what feels like the millionth time. I inspect every part of the sled from **brush bow** to **cargo basket**. The brush bow is like the bumper of a car. It helps absorb the impact during a collision. The cargo basket is every musher's best friend. It holds supplies, provides a place to sleep, and can be used as a safe **haven** for an injured dog.

As I check, my mind begins to wander. I can't believe that I qualified for the Iditarod. Ever since I was little, I longed to take part in the race. I come from a sledding family. My father raced in one of the first Iditarods. I remember watching him train. I admired the bond he had with his dogs. All I've ever wanted was to follow in his footsteps. And now, here I am, the youngest Iditarod musher of all time!

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LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Sled dogs wear booties to protect their feet from injury. Each dog needs a set of 4 booties.

1. There are 240 dog booties. How many dogs can receive a set of booties? Explain your thinking.
2. A musher has 25 dog booties. There are 6 dogs that need them. Does the musher have enough booties? Are there any booties left over? Explain your thinking.

