



EXPLORER Journal

FOR AGE 13+

NAME: _____



Kenai Fjords National Park



To Explore...

...is more than just to travel. It is to immerse yourself in a place, consider different perspectives, and make new discoveries.



This booklet can be a starting point for your own journey of discovery at Kenai Fjords. When you've completed the activities, share your journal with a ranger to receive your Explorer pin.

My Trip to Kenai Fjords

Date(s): _____

Weather conditions: _____

Places I visited/what I did: _____

Wildlife sightings: _____

My favorite part of my visit was: _____

The most surprising thing I learned was: _____

My most memorable experience was: _____

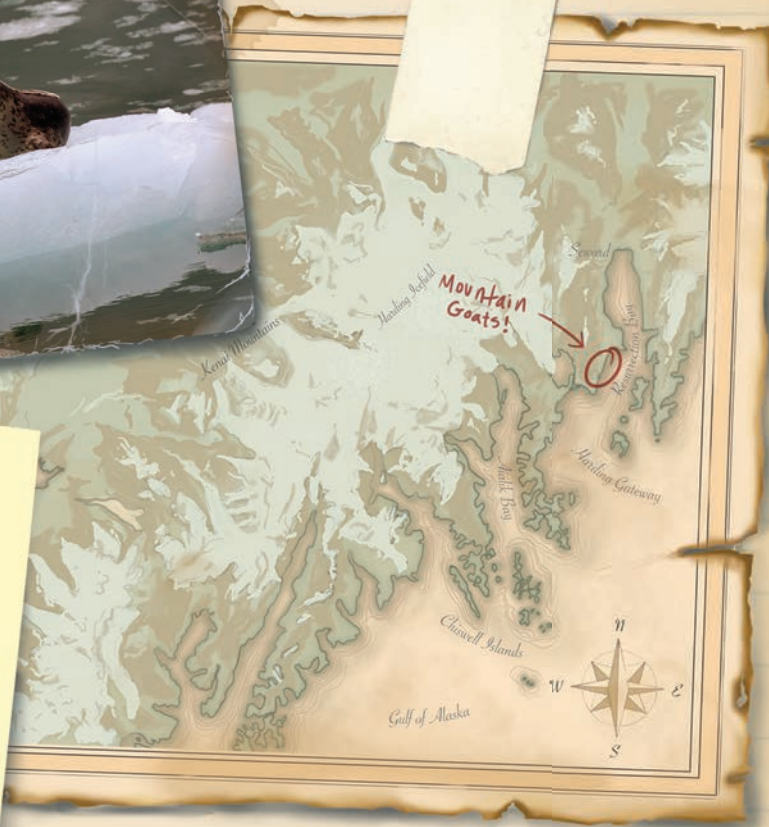
Use the blank pages at the end of this booklet for your own questions, notes, or sketches.

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands, but in having new eyes."

-Marcel Proust (translated from French)

Survival

For over 1,000 years, this wild place was home to Alutiig people. Harbor seals, mountain goats, and other animals that they relied on still roam the rocky slopes and inhabit the sea. Throughout time, people and animals have survived here by adapting to the natural rhythms of Kenai Fjords.



DID YOU KNOW THAT HARBOR SEALS DON'T HAVE EXTERNAL EAR FLAPS? THEY'RE ABLE TO CLOSE THEIR EAR OPENINGS WHEN THEY DIVE UNDERWATER.



"In the game of life, less diversity means fewer options for change. Wild or domesticated, panda or pea, adaptation is the requirement for survival."
-Cary Fowler (Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust)

Reflect on one of the topics in the next two pages and write your thoughts in the space provided.

Survival continued

Imagine living in the fjords hundreds of years ago... this place would probably feel very different if it were your home. Consider how the objects below would have helped you survive. In the space provided, describe what you think your life would have been like and what would have been your greatest challenges.

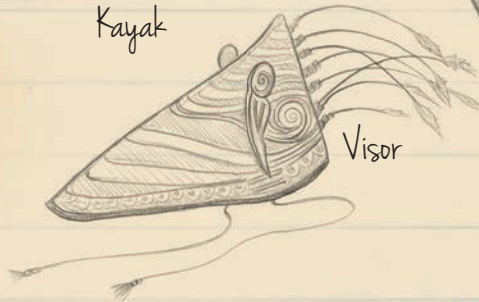


Alaska State Library, Historical Collections, G420.L93V68 Lutke

Kayak



Diil lamp



Visor

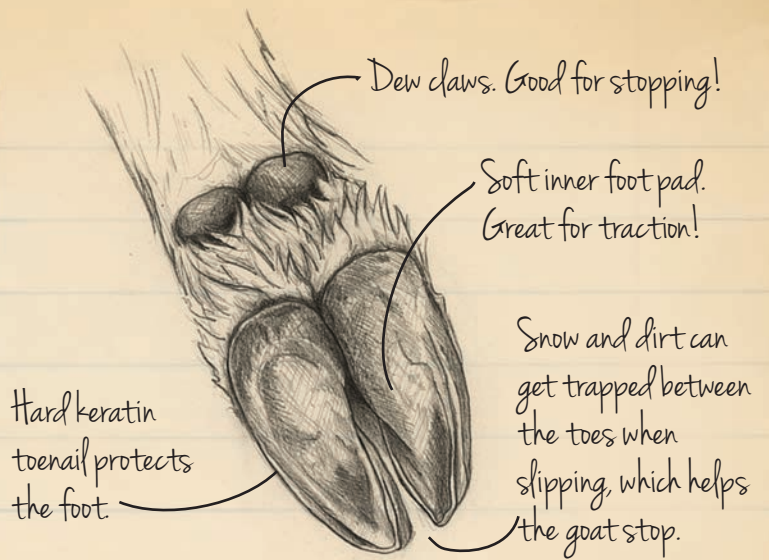


Adze



Gut skin Parka

Mountain goats are adapted to life on steep, rugged terrain. Imagine what it would feel like to look down on the fjords from a mountain goat's perspective. Consider what it takes for them to survive in this environment. In the space below describe how you are like a mountain goat.



UNDERSIDE OF GOAT HOOF



LOOK FOR TUFTS OF SHED MOUNTAIN GOAT FUR CAUGHT ON PLANTS AND ROCKS.

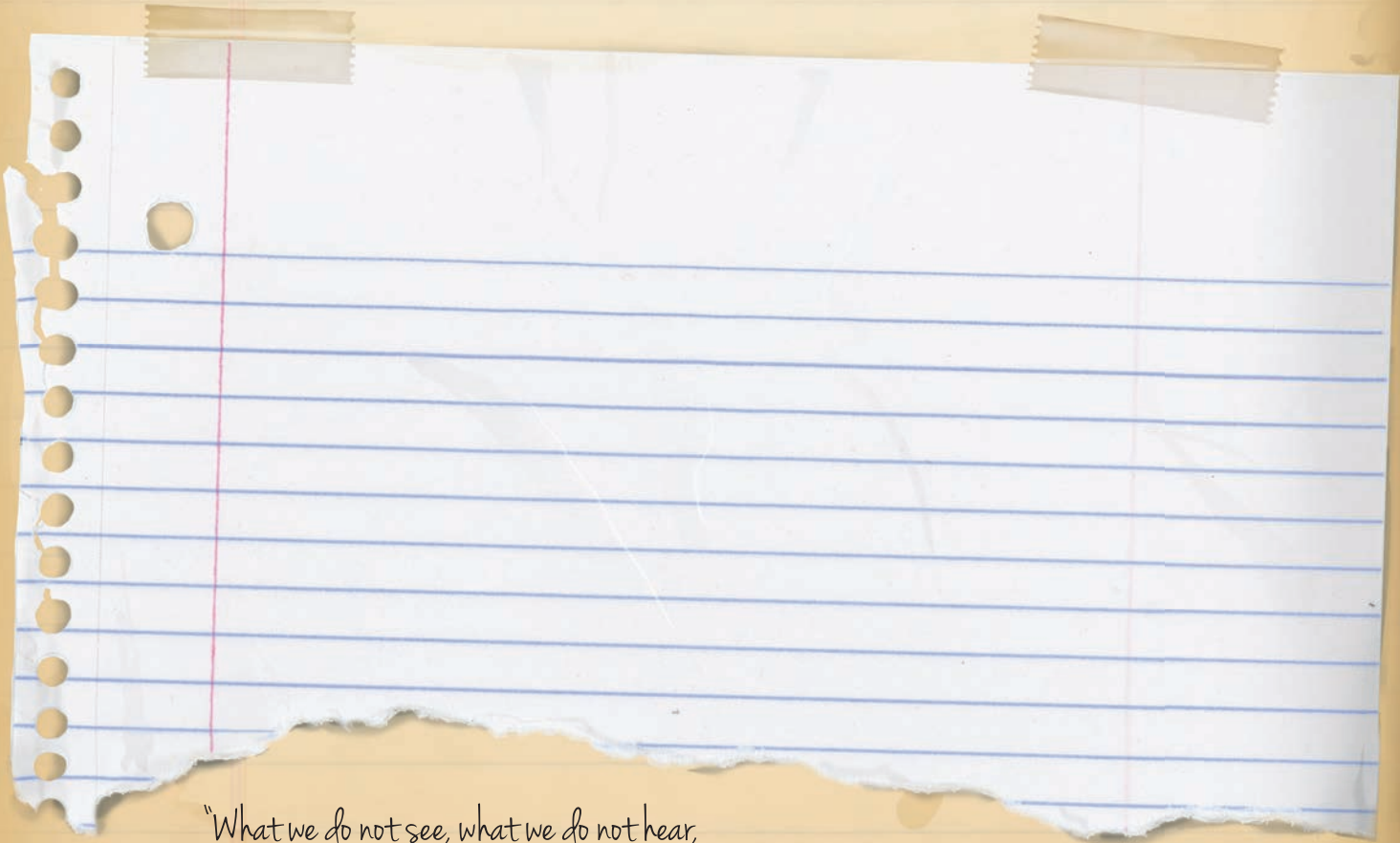


Experience

A picture may be worth 1,000 words
- but it can't quite capture the
feeling of being in the presence of a
massive glacier or seeing a bald eagle
soar overhead...



Find a place in the park that speaks to you. Close your eyes. Focus on the feeling of the air... the sounds and scents around you. When you open your eyes, notice the small details - a drop of dew, light, and shadows. Describe your experience for someone who has never been here - what did you feel, hear, smell, and see... Was there something you could taste?



"What we do not see, what we do not hear,
what we do not touch, we can never really know." - St. Lawrence Island Yupik Elder.

Notes:

Even though we all know what ice feels like, we yearn to touch a glacier. Why do you think this is? Share your thoughts here...



To Do:

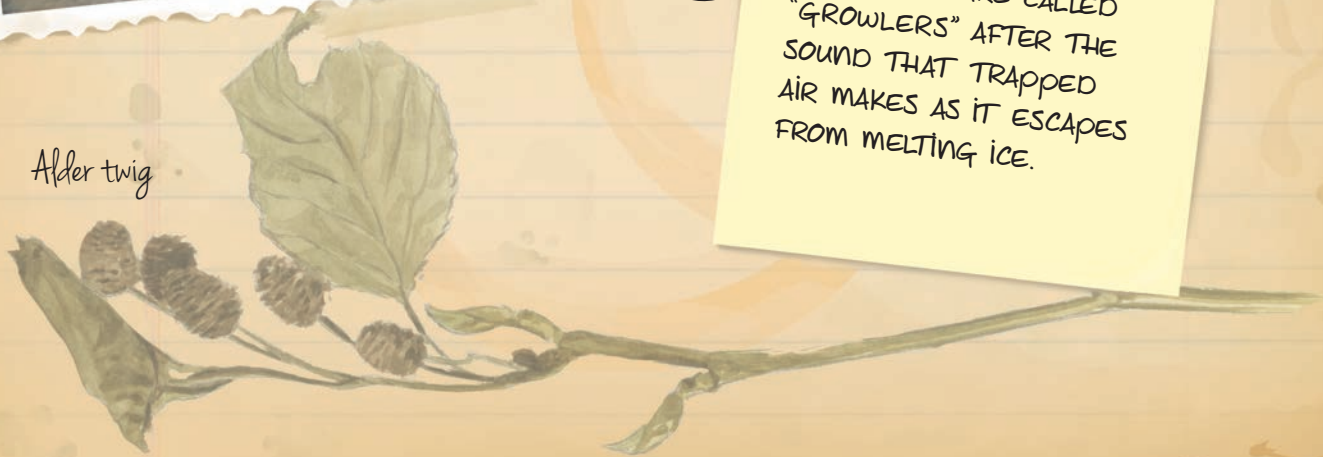
Look for a floating chunk of glacial ice!



TRIVIA

SMALL CHUNKS OF GLACIAL ICE ARE CALLED "GROWLERS" AFTER THE SOUND THAT TRAPPED AIR MAKES AS IT ESCAPES FROM MELTING ICE.

Alder twig



Change

Plates shift, glaciers advance and retreat, forests grow... The National Park Service is charged with preserving and protecting places like Kenai Fjords so they remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations..." But how do you "preserve" an ever-changing environment - especially when the rate of change continues to accelerate?

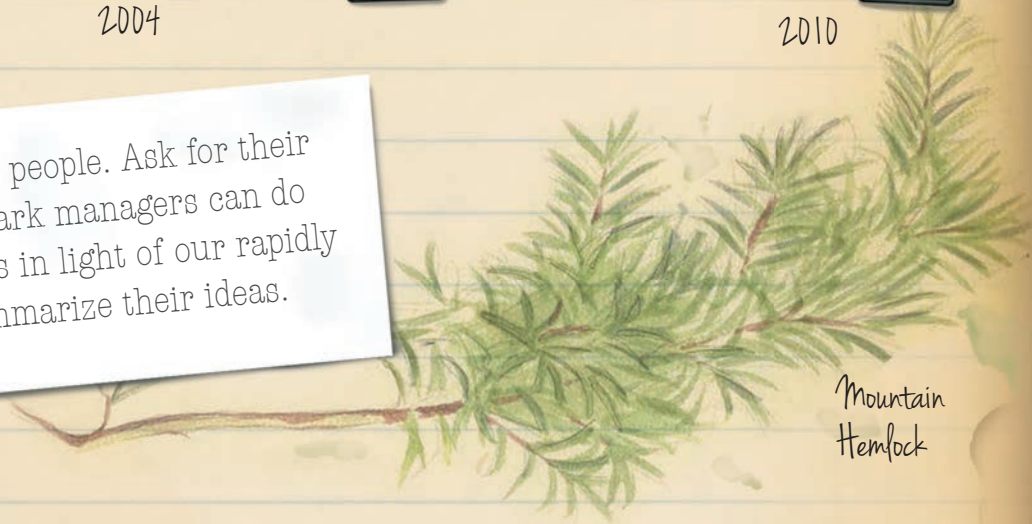


2004



2010

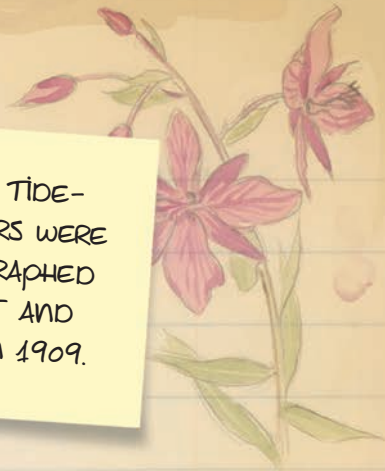
Show these photos to 3 people. Ask for their thoughts about what park managers can do to protect Kenai Fjords in light of our rapidly changing climate. Summarize their ideas.



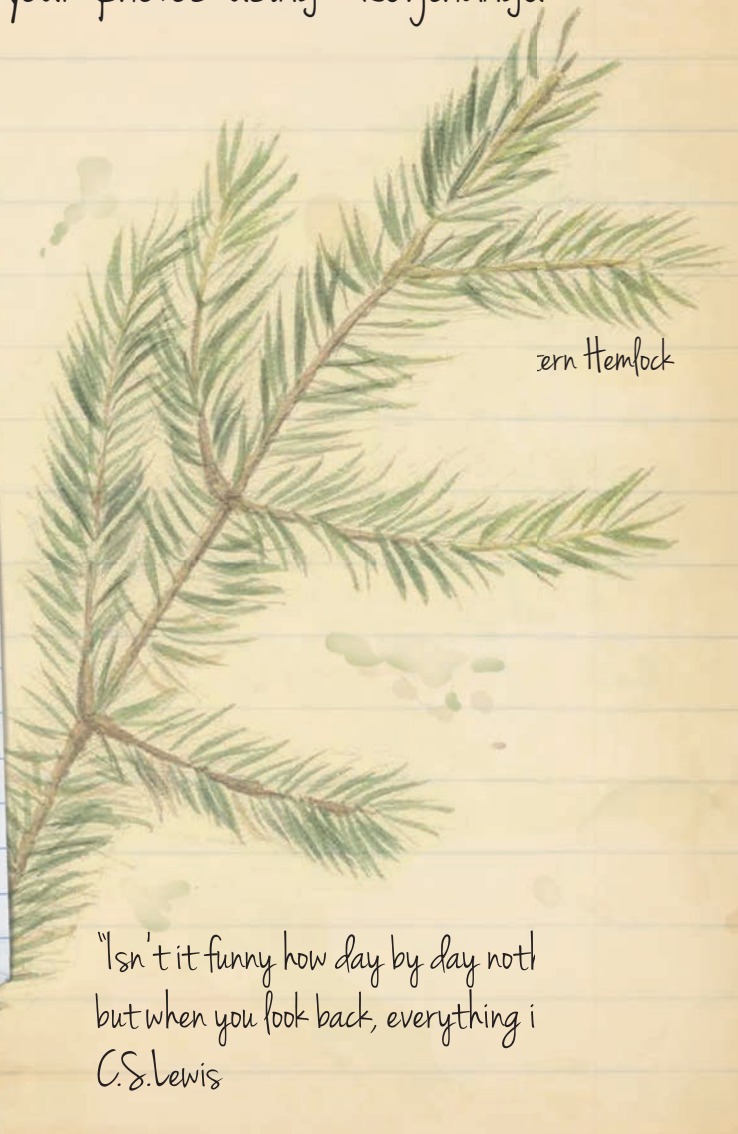
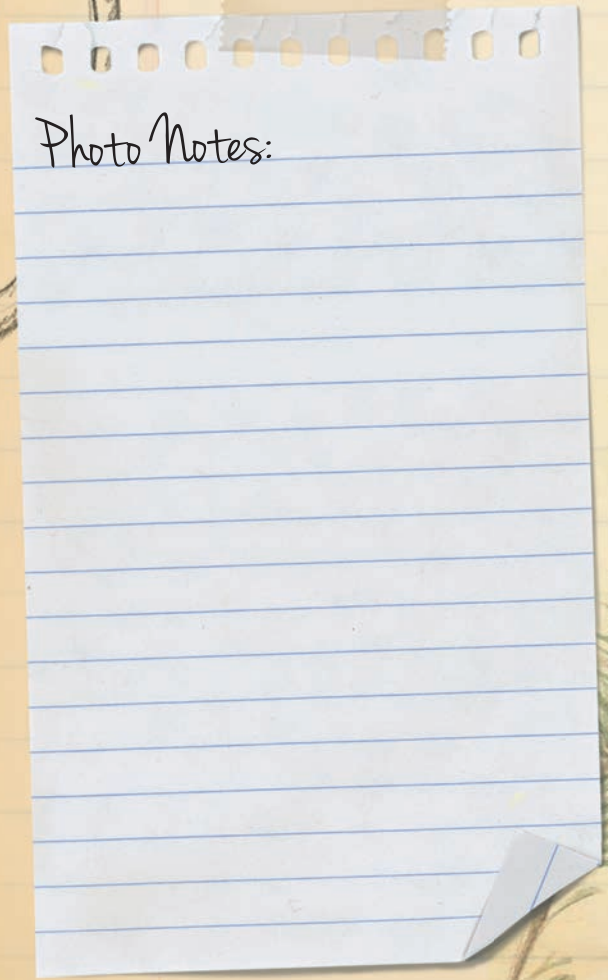
Mountain
Hemlock



KENAI FJORDS' TIDE-WATER GLACIERS WERE FIRST PHOTOGRAPHED BY U.S. GRANT AND D.F. HIGGINS in 1909.



Repeat photography is one way park scientists document. Take a photo of something you'd like to revisit in the future (make sure to describe what you've been here before - retake a photo and see what has changed since your last visit. Post your photos using #kefjchange.



Western Hemlock

"Isn't it funny how day by day nothing changes but when you look back, everything is different."
C.S. Lewis

Connect

Glaciers

It's hard to comprehend the enormity of geologic time. But scientists have been able to reconstruct Exit Glacier's movement over the past 100+ years, allowing us to see glacial change on a more manageable scale.



ations or keeping mementoes, moraines (rock
ist extent of a glacier. Compare Exit Glacier's
ant to you. Write your milestones in the space
provided by the moraine dates. Take a picture of yourself by the year sign that is
most meaningful to you, and describe your connection to that glacial milestone.

How does comparing
personal events with
glacial milestones
affect the way you
think about Exit
Glacier?

Birds



Sometimes it is enough to enjoy the moment, listen to the birds, or appreciate the beauty of the forest. However, learning to recognize different species can lead to a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Below are some of the birds you may encounter at Kenai Fjords National Park. Put a check mark by the species that you saw or heard during your visit. Circle the ones that are also found where you live.

Birds of the Fjords

Black-Legged Kittiwake

Tufted Puffin

Horned Puffin

Marbled Murrelet

Double Crested Cormorant

Common Murre

3 types, including pelagic and red-faced

Birds of Exit Glacier

Black-Capped Chickadee

Hermit Thrush

Varied Thrush

Yellow Rumped Warbler

Wilson's Warbler

Violet-Green Swallow

Did you know?
5 THRUSH SPECIES CAN BE FOUND AT EXIT GLACIER

Most common bird call in Exit Glacier area

nests on cliffs at the edge of the glacier - feeds on mosquitoes

"The birds I heard today, which fortunately, did not come within the scope of my science, sang as freshly as if it had been the first morning of creation" - Henry David Thoreau

Inspiration

Artists who found beauty in America's wild places were among the first advocates for protecting scenic landscapes as national parks.



ROCKWELL KENT, BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST AMERICAN ARTIST TO PAINT WHAT IS NOW KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK, SPENT THE WINTER OF 1918-19 ON FOX ISLAND. HIS WORK BROUGHT THE BEAUTY OF THIS REMOTE PLACE TO PUBLIC VIEW.

"Killer Whales in Resurrection Bay," Rockwell Kent, Alaska 1919

The scenery and wildlife of Kenai Fjords continue to inspire young artists.



"Blue-ringed Octopus," Lindsey von Borstel, 2014

"It seems we have turned out of the beaten, crowded way and come to stand face to face with that infinite and unfathomable thing which is wilderness; and here we found ourselves - for the wilderness is nothing else."

11 - Rockwell Kent, "Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska" (1920).

UNational Parks are important – not just because of the things they protect, but because of how they affect us. Places like Kenai Fjords provide a respite from our daily lives; they renew and inspire us. How does this place inspire you? Draw a picture, or write a poem or haiku to express your thoughts.



This page is for
your own notes,
questions, ideas,
or musings.



"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." -John Muir (1838-1914)

Use the "passport stamp" to mark the date of your visit. Attach ticket stubs, brochures, photos, or any other mementoes that will help remind you of your experiences at Kenai Fjords National Park.

If you don't finish during your visit, you can still mail us your completed journal to receive your pin. (Be sure to include your return address!!)



ask a ranger to sign your journal here when you are all done.

ranger signature

date

We hope this Explorer Journal has enhanced your visit and has given you some things to think about. Perhaps you'll be inspired to learn more about Kenai Fjords, explore other national parks, or find things you can do at home to help protect these special places. Take a few minutes to write a pledge that includes things you would like to do in the next year.

My Pledge



PLEDGE IDEAS:

AVOID PRODUCTS WITH
EXCESS PACKAGING

(TO HELP REDUCE
MARINE DEBRIS)

REDUCE CARBON
FOOTPRINT:

- SWITCH TO LED BULBS
- DRIVE LESS
- CHECK TIRE PRESSURE

LEARN MORE:

- VISIT www.nps.gov/KEFJ
- JOIN ALASKA GEOGRAPHIC
- FOLLOW KENAI FJORDS NP
ON FACEBOOK

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead