



Movement
Cozmo S Harder



Movement. It is everywhere, steady or irregular, fast or slow, big or small. Everything moves, especially in Alaska. On the Stewardship Program the other students and I learned about the different types of movement in Alaska, from the flower seeds floating in the wind to the glaciers grinding across the land.

We started the trip by talking about all the different ways plants can reproduce in Alaska. We talked about the Aspen trees that grow saplings from pre-existing roots, forming a single forest interconnected under the ground, one living organism bigger than you can imagine. The dandelions, and how they use their lightweight structure to float their seeds on the wind and spread like wildfire. The cattails and how they have evolved to have lightweight floating roots that float down the river until they find a suitable place to root down and start to spread.

We then talked about the silt moving along the river beds and the glaciers bringing more and more silt as they recede and melt away leaving rocks and silt to be taken by the land and shipped away. The silt from cliff sides and new river paths carries along over thousands of years worth of geological history eventually ending up in the mud flats near the ocean, and along the rivers close to the coast because of the tidal influence.

The native people and animals of Alaska move more than almost any other place in the world, the salmon spawn and make a long treacherous journey to the ocean to grow, then return to their original spawning location to spawn the future generation, after they spawn they give their bodies to the earth and die where they were born. While other animals follow the fish, the caribou and moose populations only move based on the climate and breeding and rutting grounds. The native people have to adapt to where the fish and other animals go to survive in this harsh climate, they would have fish camps to move to for fishing season, and hunting camps and log cabins for the winter to get sheep and caribou ect.

