**“Soft Gold: The history of Russians in Alaska” Script**

Green text indicates instructions for the presenter/headings

Red text indicates where you should click to play an animation/advance the PowerPoint

Blue text indicates an interactive element

Purple text indicates words to add, based on whether or not the audience/students correctly or incorrectly answer questions

Gray highlights for elements that the current presenter may want to revise and/or personalize to make the program seem more in their own voice

**Slide 1: Introduction**

Hello everyone! My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here at Sitka National Historical Park here in Sitka, Alaska. I’m so excited to be here today with you all to talk about a very important piece of Alaskan history! As you can read here, today we are going to be talking about Russians in Alaska- the first non-Alaskan native people who came and settled here. This had a HUGE impact on the people who already lived here in Alaska, as well as the history of the world. Let’s get started!

**Slide 2: Info on Alaska**

First, we need to talk about Alaska. You can see this map of Alaska here on the screen, with the large green areas of forests and tundra, the blue of the rivers, lakes, and oceans, and the brown of our high mountains. Can anyone tell me on this map, where Sitka, Alaska is located?

Pause, just in case any student actually does known

That’s correct! Sitka, Alaska is located right here in Southeast Alaska, where you see this BIG red arrow and “X” just appeared on the screen. I’d like to show all of you a really fun way to remember this! First, I want you all to hold up your right hand, just like this, and flip it upside down.

Give students a moment to follow this motion.

Next, I want you to take your thumb and your first finger and stick them out, just like this!

Give students a moment to follow this motion.

Now, you can see that your hand, kind of looks like the outline of Alaska! Isn’t that cool?! On your hand-map, Sitka would be right about halfway down your thumb!

This next map you see on the screen is of a part of Southeast Alaska we call the Alexander Archipelago. The bright white parts on this map actually represent the ocean, and all these green shapes and dots you see here are actually islands.

Sitka is located right here on this large island that just appeared in this red circle on your screen. This island is called *Baranof Island*, or *Shee* in the Native Tlingit language. Now, you might be asking yourself why an island in Alaska has such a strange, Russian-sounding name? Many places in this part of Alaska, especially near the coast, have Russian names- these places are named after people who were important to Russian settlement here in Alaska. For example, Baranof islands is named after Alexander Baranof, the first governor of Russian America. We’ll get into this a little bit later!

This next map is of downtown Sitka, as it appears today. You can see the blue of the water and the grey land, with these white-colored streets running all throughout it. However, this big green area in the bottom-right corner of the map is Sitka National Historical Park- where I am today!

**Slide 3: The Tlingit**

The first people to settle in this part of Alaska are called the Tlingit. In this black and white photograph from 1904, you can see a large group of Tlingit people all standing together in traditional Chilkat robes, masks, and jewelry. All together, we call this regalia- special clothing and accessories worn during gatherings and ceremonies. This photo is actually from a traditional festival and feast called a “potlatch”, where different clans would come together to share gifts and connect with one another, so regalia is important here!

These Alaskan Native people have a very rich oral history- the collection of all their history and legends have been passed down in stories and songs from generation to generation. According to this oral history, the Tlingit have lived in this area of nearly 10,000 years. Not only do we have the Tlingit’s history, but archaeologists, scientists who learn about the past by studying artifacts, have found evidence that this is true.

This drawing here is what a tradition Tlingit Village might have looked like- you can see the large, green mountains in the back leading up to the blue water, with a few islands as well. On the shore, you can see a few large structures, as well as people out on the water in boats. I’d like you all take a minute to look at it, and tell me what kind of things you see. What kind of buildings are in this picture? What are the people doing?

The large buildings you see here are called clan houses- they were large buildings that many people lived in, and often had more than one floor. Sometimes, they would even be built down into the ground. Each house would be decorated with beautiful carvings. This is a closeup of what Tlingit clan house might have looked like- you can see the brown wooden house decorated with intricate carvings of animals and people, painted in white, red, green and brown. Each of these carvings had a purpose, telling and honoring the stories of the clan who lived in the house and their ancestors. The boats you see here are canoes- raise your hand if you’ve ever been in a canoe before! Except these canoes aren’t exactly like the ones you and I think of today, which only hold two or three people. Traditional Tlingit canoes could be small like ours, or very, very large and could hold many people and lots of supplies.

There’s something else that’s special about this drawing- does anyone have a guess what that is?

Pause for a moment and let students make guesses

Yes, what a good guess! This drawing was made almost 230 years ago, and depicts the *original* Tlingit village that existed right here where Sitka is today, called *Shee Atika*. I love this picture, because even though these buildings are gone today, I can still go for a walk through town and look out at the water and see these islands, or look behind me and see these mountains. Pictures like these are a great reminder that even though places change, you can always study and learn from the past!

On this map you can see all of the land that belonged to the Tlingit in Southeast Alaska. These dotted lines show how the land was separated into different *Kwaan*s, which are kind of like states, or regions. Each *kwaan* would have many different clans of Tlingit people living there- does everyone remember where Sitka is?! Show me on your hands how to find Sitka!

One of the big reasons the Tlingit settled in this part of Alaska was for its natural resources- for them, there was always enough food hunt and gather, space to grow, trees to cut and build with, etc. It was this natural abundance that brought another group of people here as well though- The Russians. But before we get to them, we need to take a step back and find out exactly what the Russians wanted here in Alaska.

**Slide 4: Fur Trade in Eastern North America**

Can anyone tell me what this animal is? This brown, furry animal with BIG teeth and a wide, flat tail can be found all over North America and likes to live near water.

Allow the teacher to call on a student/students to give the answer. Assume that they’ll know what this is

That’s right, this is a beaver! Specifically, a North American beaver. They live in rivers and lakes all over the continent, but they also have had a VERY big impact on this history of this continent- and that’s because of their fur!

I want you all to close your eyes and think back to the coldest weather you’ve ever experienced. Rub your arms to show me you’re cold!

Self-explanatory, but rub your arms to show students that you’re cold

Now think about what kind clothes you wear when you’re cold! Everyone show me putting on your jacket! Now show me putting on your hat and gloves! Show me… putting on your scarf!

Go through these motions with the students, get them engaged

Now that we’re all nice and warm, can you all tell me what your nice, warm clothes are made of? How are they keeping you warm?

Today, you and I are lucky that when the weather gets cold, we can just go out to the store or go to our closets and get nice, warm winter clothes made with materials designed to trap heat. However, not too long ago this wasn’t an option. One of the best ways for people to stay warm was by wearing clothes made of animal fur- and beaver fur was some of the warmest there is.

Many people from Great Britain and France came to this part of the world to hunt for beavers. You can see this map of what we call New England today- you can see the Atlantic Ocean on the right, the greens and browns of forests and mountains, and the blue of rivers and lakes.

Hunters would travel up rivers and lakes looking for beavers, bring their fur back to the sea, sell it in big cities like New York (pause), Montreal (pause), and Boston (pause), which you can see by these three red stars that just appeared on the map. In these cities, merchants would buy the furs from hunters, and their ships would sail up rivers and across the ocean, which you can see by these red arrows, to bring them back to Europe where tailors would turn them into warm and fashionable clothes.

Now, let’s play a little game- I want you all to show me on your fingers what you think the most popular item to make out of beaver fur was. Hold up 1 finger if you think its coats, 2 if you think its hats, 3 for pants, 4 for shoes, and 5 if you think its bags.

Pause for a moment to let students make their guesses, and see what they think.

If you said #2, you’re right! One of the most popular items that people made out of beaver fur were hats like these! Not only were they warm and fashionable, but they were also much smaller than something like a coat, so more hats could be made out of less beaver fur.

**Slide 5: Siberian Fur trade**

While the British and French hunted for beaver in North America, something similar was happening on the other side of the world in Russia. However, instead of beaver Russian fur hunters were looking for the animal that you can see here. This small, brown furry animal standing in this crisp white snow has very soft and warm fur that was very, very valuable.

Can anyone guess what this animal is? Show me on your fingers again if you think it’s 1. A Sable, 2. A Wolverine, or 3. A Marten?

Pause for a moment to let students make their guesses, and see what they think.

This animal is called a Sable! They are native to the vast forests of Russia. This is a map of Russia, and you can see the large area inside this red circle- this whole area is called Siberia. You can see lots of greens and brown on this map, and that is because this whole region is lots of mountains, forests, rivers. This is the perfect place for sables to live, because they love to hide way high up in trees to get away from predators.

This next red circle you see on the map way over to the far left is actually where most of the people in Russia lived at the time- its where the biggest cities like Saint Petersburg and Moscow are located. Because Siberia, the region we just talked about, is SO big and SO cold, not many people wanted to live there. However, when people began hunting for sable they began moving into the region. This long red line right that just appeared on the map is where the Ural Mountains are located. They are a natural barrier between the left, where most of the people lived, and Siberia- they had to cross them in order to reach the sable. These two red arrows show how these hunters moved across the continent searching for sable. Eventually, people moved across the WHOLE continent looking for Sables, and found their way here, to the area inside this red circle on the right of the map- the Pacific Ocean.

When they got to the coast, they found another animal whose fur was even warmer and more valuable than the sable. Can anyone guess what that animal is?

Have the teacher call on students to make guesses.

(Amazing guess! if correct / Those were great guesses! if incorrect) The animal I’m thinking of is this one right here- the Sea Otter. In this picture, you can see a fuzzy, brown sea otter floating on its back in some water. Sea Otter fur is incredibly special for a few reasons.

At this point, get out the Sea Otter pelt

I have here a sea otter pelt- If you look closely at this, you can see just how dense the hairs are here.

Hold the pelt up close to the camera so students might be able to get a closer look

If you were to look at a single square inch of this fur under a microscope,

With your fingers, show students what a single square inch looks like on the pelt

you would be able to count over a million hairs. That is one of the biggest reasons the Russians were so interested in Sea Otter Fur- because of how thick this fur is, it is incredibly soft and warm, and also prevents water from getting in- unlike the hair you or I have on our heads.

**Slide 6: Luxury Goods**

However, there was a problem- there just weren’t that many sea otters near the Russian coast. I’d like to read you a quote from the “American Naturalist” a scientific journal.

Read the quote from the presentation slide

This quote was written in 1870, so just over 150 years ago. Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands, two of the places the author mentioned, are located off the coast of Russia- these are the Sea otters that these Russian fur hunters found.

Just like the beaver, people wanted Sea Otter fur to make clothes out of- but because they were so rare in Russia, only the richest people could afford them. They were so valuable, that people called sea otter fur “Soft Gold”- now where have we heard that term before? At the time, China was one of the biggest places Russian fur hunters traded their Sea Otter fur. On this map, you can see large green forests of Siberia and the Russian coast near the top, and the rest of Asia down below. In China, the hunters could easily trade fur for other valuable goods like tea or porcelain, which they would bring back to Russia and sell. Although today we can pretty easily get our hands on these kinds of products, at the time people in big Russian cities like Saint Petersburg and Moscow would pay LOTS of money to have them.

This is a black and white drawing of a Chinese man wearing a coat made from sea otter fur. You can tell that he must’ve been a very wealthy in order to have an entire coat made out of sea otter fur, and wanted to have this portrait done in order to show off that wealth to everyone. Goods like Sea Otter fur, tea, and porcelain became “Luxury Goods”- something that isn’t necessary to live but is seen as very valuable or highly desirable within a certain society or culture. Throughout history and across the world, luxury goods have always been incredibly important for trade, and encourage different cultures, like Russia and China in this case, to interact with one another and help spread important parts of culture like language, music, food, and many other things.

How about some examples from today? Today, which of these things would be considered luxury goods? Show me on your fingers if you think any of these are luxury goods: 1. Groceries, 2. A toothbrush, 3. A car, 4. Sunglasses, 5. Hand Sanitizer, or 6. A laptop. Remember, it should be something that isn’t necessary to live, but we all think of as very valuable.

Pause for a moment to let students make their guesses, and see what they think.

**Slide 7: Russians move into the Aleutian Islands**

So now, we need to answer the question- Where did the Russian hunters go first to find Sea Otters to hunt? They went here, to this chain of Islands- does anyone know what these islands are called? I’ll give you a hint- their name was in the quote I read to you all earlier. Does anyone remember?

You’re correct! These are the Aleutian Islands! On this map, you can see Russia on the left and Alaska on the Right, with the Aleutian Islands inside this red box in the middle. Because the islands stretch between the two continents, Asia and North America, Russian hunters (who weren’t good sailors) could travel the short distance between these islands, rather than having to sail all the way across the ocean.

There were also people already living here in the Aleutian Islands- they are called the Aleut or Unangan people. The name for these people, Aleut, is actually what the Russians called them, and it’s why the islands are named the way they are! In this drawing, you can see and Aleut man and woman dressed in their colorful, beautifully decorated traditional clothing, holding traditional tools like a paddle and baskets and standing on a cliff above the ocean.

The Russian hunters relied on these Alaskan native people to help them hunt sea otters. The Aleut had lived in these Islands for thousands and thousands of years, and knew how to hunt the kinds of animals that lived in the waters around their homes. Animals like the Sea Otter, Whales, and seals were all an important part of their culture and they knew exactly where to look for them and how to trap them.

Although the Russians relied on Alaskan native people, one important thing we have to talk about is how the Russians treated the Aleut. It is very important to understand that, although the Russians did sometimes trade with and pay the native hunters for their work, most of the time the Russian hunters weren’t nice to the Aleut People. They did not treat them fairly or with respect. Often times, they would threaten to hurt the Aleut or kidnap members of their families if they didn’t give them supplies or help them hunt for Sea Otters. There’s a word that describes what the Russians did to make the Aleut work for them- coercion. Coercion means forcing someone to do something they don’t want to either using force, or by threatening them. Unfortunately, this happens a lot when people with a lot of power, which often comes in the form of manpower or technology like guns or steel, encounter people with less than them- it happened to many native people in North and South America when European settlers arrived. As sad as it is, it is a very important concept to understand.

Let’s explore some of the reasons that these Russian hunters were better at hunting animals that lived on land, like the sable, and the Alaskan native hunters were much better at hunting animals that lived in the waters near their home. This first drawing is of Russian hunters in Siberia. As you can see, it’s a black and white drawing of two hunters standing in a snowy forest, ready to hunt. I’d like you all to take a minute and look at this, and think about what kind of tools, or clothing you see that would allow these hunters to be successful on land.

Give students a minute to study the picture, before having them give examples they see in the picture- things like their heavy fur clothing, skis, dogs, sleds, bow and arrow, gun, etc.

Now, here are drawings of Alaskan native hunters in the water. In all of them, you can see Alaskan native hunters out on the water with their traditional clothing and tools. What do you see in these drawings that would help these hunters be successful at hunting animals that live in the water? There are a few that are easy to spot, and some that are more difficult.

Give students a minute to study the picture, before having them give examples they see in the picture- things like the kayaks, their hunting tools, their waterproof coats (made of intestine), visors to block the sun, etc.

**Slide 8: Balance of resources in habitats and Russian overuse**

The Russian fur hunters had a lot of success hunting in the Aleutian Islands. With the help of the Alaskan natives, every year they would be able to find thousands and thousands of sea otters- however, this was many more sea otters than this habitat could sustain. Does anyone know what that word means? Habitat?

Pause and have teacher call on students to guess

Very good guesses/answer! A habitat is place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows- both living things like plants and animals and things that aren’t alive, like rocks and water, have an important role in keeping a habitat healthy.

I’d like you all to close your eyes and think about your favorite animal – Now imagine that you’re that animal! Where do you live? Is it up in the trees? Maybe in a cave, or underwater? What about the things you can eat? Do you eat plants, or other animals? Maybe you can eat both? Now imagine, how different life would be if you didn’t have access to those places, or your source of food. I hope you’ve managed to imagine that any habitat relies on a balance between give and take- every animal, plant, rock, body of water, etc. plays an important part in maintaining that balance.

Here in Sitka, we live right next to the Tongass National Forest- the largest federally protected forest in the United States. That just means that the forest is taken care of by a special branch of our government called the United States Forest Service. The Tongass is a perfect habitat for many different types of animals including Brown and Black bears, Eagles, Salmon, and so many others! These three pictures, one of a brown bear standing in a stream, another of a Bald Eagle with its white head and tail feathers catching a fish, and the last one of lots of dark grey salmon in a river, were all taken right here in Sitka National Historical Park.

I want you all to take a close look at this picture of the salmon- why do you think there are SO many fish all in one place? Does anyone know what makes salmon unique among other fish?

Pause and have teacher call on students to guess

That’s right! Salmon are SO unique, because even though they spend most of their lives out in the ocean, they are born in rivers just like the one we have here in Sitka National Historical Park. Every year, Salmon will return to the EXACT same river they were born in order to lay their eggs! How cool is that?!

When the salmon return to the rivers to lay their eggs, which we call a *Salmon Run*, it brings the other animals like the bears and the eagles out to catch the fish. So, you can see that habitats like the Tongass rely on this balance between predators, prey, and their environments to stay healthy.

Too often with humans, we take more than we should when it comes to the natural world. When it came to the sea otters, this was definitely true. This is called overuse, or overhunting when it comes to things like animals. The Aleut people had hunted the sea otter for thousands of years, but only took what they needed to survive, to eat and make their clothes. This is called *subsistence*- when you take just enough from nature to survive, but no more. Even today, many people in here in Alaska follow a *subsistence* lifestyle. When the Russians, as well as fur hunters from other countries like Great Britain, France, and America, arrived and took many, many sea otters than the habitat could handle, it caused many problems for the everyone.

For the Aleut, they could no longer find the Sea Otters they needed each year to maintain their way of life. The loss of sea otters also had a really negative effect on the environment. Sea Otters are what we call a *Keystone Species*- A keystone species is any kind of plant or animal that has a major effect on their habitat, more than the other species they share it with- in this phot you can see a Sea otter poking its head up and out of the dark water to take a look around! One of the Sea otters’ favorite things to eat are sea urchins, which you can see in this photo- although they’re alive, Sea urchins don’t move much and prefer to sit on the ocean floor like a spiky rock. Sea urchins like to eat kelp, which is a type of seaweed. This is a photo of some brown kelp on a grey, rocky beach here in Sitka- raise your hand if you’ve ever been to a beach and seen kelp something like this! When the otters eat the urchins, there is more kelp- which provides shelter and food for a whole variety of animals like fish and sea turtles. So you can see, just by being in an ecosystem and eating their favorite food, sea otters have a huge effect on the diversity and health of their habitat. And when they’re overhunted, the whole habitat becomes weaker and less healthy.

And for the Russians- well, they had to find a new place to find Sea Otter fur.

**Slide 9: Russians move inland**

So, where do you think the Russians went? Here, we have that same map of Alaska with the green forests, blue water, and brown mountains that we saw at the beginning of our presentation. On this map, I’ll show you a few different ways the Russians might have travelled and I want you to raise your hand when you think you see the right one- I’ll give you a hint, think back to earlier when I told you about where Sitka is- use your hand device if you have to! If you think they went up to the north, raise your hand!

Make a comment based on what if/how many hands you see up

Okay, now if you think they went WAY up the rivers into the interior of Alaska raise your hand!

Make a comment based on what if/how many hands you see up

If you think they stayed south and went along the coast, put your hands way up high where I can see them!

That’s right! Just like the Russians had travelled east along across the Pacific Ocean and across the Aleutian Islands, they continued their way east ALL the way along the southern coast of Alaska.

Even though the Russian hunters were moving along the coast and away from the Aleutian Islands looking for otters, they still needed the help of the Aleut hunters they forced to work for them- so much so that actually brought large numbers of them with them along the coast. In this drawing, we can see a large Russian sailing ship and many Aleut hunters in kayaks approaching an island with a village on it- however, these people are not Aleut or Unangan- they belong to another group of Alaskan native people called the Sugpiaq, or Alutiit.

These are all depictions of different Sugpiaq people in their traditional clothing made from animal fur (like sea otter!) with traditional piercings and headwear. These people live all across South-central Alaska! If we go back to our hand device representing Alaska, the Sugpiaq live from right about the first joint on your first finger all the way to the thumb! Now, I’d like you all to remember the word we talked about earlier- coercion. The Russians “coerced” the Sugpiaq into working with them the same way they had with the Aleut- by disrespecting and threatening to hurt them if they didn’t help.

With their large force of Aleut hunters, combined with the new workers they gathered from the Sugpiaq, Russian fur traders could travel out in hunting parties that contained hundreds of men in many kayaks, looking for otters. However, having this many hunters all operating in the same area was difficult to coordinate. They were far from home, and they needed places to stop and sleep, to eat, to repair their ships and tools, store the furs they had gathered until they could be sold, etc.

They needed to build outposts and colonies! Again, we can see our map of Alaska but this time there are red stars on it- these are all places that the Russians built colonies, including in Sitka! The Alaskan coastline offered them many opportunities to build and settle here that other places did not- The interior would have plenty of building materials, but it was hard to get to and they would be far away from the Sea Otters.

Gesture to this area with hand motions, laser pointer, mouse, etc.

Going back and building on the Aleutian Islands would make them too far away from the Sea Otters, and many of the islands were small, or didn’t have good building materials. On the coast, they had plenty of the things they needed. Easy access to food, lots of trees to build with, land to build on, and access to the ocean made the coast the perfect place to build!

Again, one of the places we can see that the Russians chose to build a colony was right here on Baranof Island. However, we already talked about another group of people who were living here, taking advantage of these natural resources- does anyone remember their name?

Have the teacher call on students to make a guess

You’re right, it’s the Tlingit people! Here we have another photograph of Tlingit people wearing their traditional regalia, and standing next to a type of carving called “house post”- these are the types of carvings that you might find outside the clan houses we talked about. This wolf carving is actually here in our visitor’s center at Sitka National Historical Park, so if you all come visit you can see this carving in person!

We already talked about how the Russians treated the Aleut and Sugpiaq people, and forced them to work for them hunting sea otters. We know that the Russian’s did not respect the native people of Alaska and thought they could take advantage of them. However, unlike these other two groups of people, the Tlingit were very organized, and were much better fighters than the Aleut or the Sugpiaq. Although they did not want to fight, they also did not want the Russians to settle near their home. These two groups fought over the land, especially right here on Baranof Island. This is a historical painting that shows the Tlingit, who are on the right in their traditional clothing and armor and armed with guns, which they got by trading with American and British merchants, and the Russians and their Alaskan native workers, who you can see down on the left coming off the water and their ships.

In 1802, and 1804, the Russians and Tlingit people fought each other for the land here. Although they did their best to prepare for the battle, the Tlingit realized they could not defeat the Russians in battle and made the decision to leave this part of this of Baranof island, in order to preserve their culture and way of life. Because the Tlingit made this decision, we here at Sitka National Historical Park can work closely with the Tlingit today to honor, respect, and preserve their culture, while also recognizing the history of the Russian settlers who lived here.

**Slide 11: New Archangel**

After the Russians settled here, they gave their new colony a name- Ново Архангельск (Novo Arhangelsk). In this drawing, you can see the buildings and walls of this Russian colony, built on the shore between the snowy mountains in the background and the water, where several sailing ships are anchored.

Let’s try to pronounce this name together! This first word is pretty easy, repeat after me- “No” (pause), “Vo” (pause)- “Novo”. This second word is a little bit tricker, but I’m sure you can do it! Repeat after me, “Ar” (pause), “Hang” (pause), “El” (pause), “Sk” (pause), “Arhangelsk”. So now, let’s try to put these two words together- “Novo Arhangelsk”. Very good! The Russian colony of Novo Arhangelsk, which translates to “New Archangel” in English, became the capital of Russian America.

Does anyone know what the capital of America is? Show me on your fingers if you think it’s 1. New York City (pause), 2. Boston (pause), 3. Washington D.C. (pause), 4. Chicago (pause), or 5. San Francisco (pause)? I hope you can all see the bright red stars that just appeared on this map- America is here in white, while Mexico and Canada are shown as a tan color.

That’s right, it’s 3. Washington D.C. It’s important to realize that a capital doesn’t have to be the biggest city or have the most people, it is just where the government of that country is located. So, in Russian America, all the important decisions were being made in Novo Arhangelsk.

Probably the most important decision involving Russian America, however, happened in 1867- nearly 70 years after the colony was founded. And that was the decision the Russians made to sell Alaska to America. This is a painting of all the important figures negotiating the sale, standing in front of large globe showing Alaska. However, the Russians didn’t just sell the land they had settled on here in New Archangel/Sitka- they sold ALL of the land in Alaska, including the land that belonged to the Tlingit, to the Aleut, to the Sugpiaq, and to many other Alaskan native people- land that wasn’t theirs to sell. Unfortunately, we don’t have time to talk about this fascinating and complex piece of history, but if you want to hear more, we have another program ALL about the “Alaska Purchase”, which I or one of my fellow staff here at Sitka National Historical Park would love to give you- so make sure you ask your teacher!

This is the official end of the presentation, so conclude the program in your own voice (written below is an example)- make sure you include time for questions at the end, and have the teacher call on students to ask their questions.

I want to thank you all for being such excellent listeners, and a special thank you to your teacher, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for inviting me to come speak to all of you today. I truly hope that you’ve all learned a lot not only about the history and ecology of Alaska, but that you’ll continue on your day and think how you can be the best steward of the environment that you can, and be mindful of our place in history! We do still have a little time left, so if anyone has any questions they’ve been holding on to feel free to ask them now!