

Alaska, The World and Wally Hickel
Documentary Study Guide-

Answer Key

1. **What federal position did Wally Hickel hold during the Nixon Administration?**
A: *U.S. Secretary of the Interior*
2. **What event occurred in May of 1970 that caused Hickel to put his job at risk?**
A: *The killing of four students at Kent State University who were protesting the Vietnam war.*
3. **How did Wally Hickel break the unspoken rules of being part of President Nixon's cabinet?**
A: *In a letter shared with the public, he openly disagreed with administration policy toward young people in America and advised change.*
4. **In 1940, why did Wally Hickel end up coming to Alaska, rather than going to Australia?**
A: *Because you didn't need a passport to come up to Alaska.*
5. **What type of business did Hickel start when he moved to Anchorage?**
A: *A construction company.*
6. **What learning disability did Wally Hickel have to contend with, throughout his life?**
A: *He was dyslexic, and had a hard time reading.*
7. **What issue brought Wally Hickel into Alaskan and national politics and what was his position on that issue?**
A: *The issue was the fight over who would own Alaska. His position was that Alaskan citizens should have statehood and that the State of Alaska should own a sizeable portion of the land.*
8. **What personality trait allowed Hickel to do so much, both in political and construction projects?**
A: *His enormous sense of confidence.*
9. **In what year did Wally Hickel first become Governor of Alaska, and what was his top priority?**
A: *1966. His top priority was developing the economy of the new state.*
10. **Why did the Alaskan Natives attempt to block Hickel's development plans?**
A: *They felt that much of the land was still theirs and that the state was going to dispossess them of it, leaving them with no voice or interests.*
11. **What geological discovery and proposed development project strengthened Native positions and lead to finding a solution for both Native and State claims on land?**
A: *In Prudhoe Bay, oil was discovered. The project was a pipeline to get the oil from Prudhoe Bay to market.*
12. **Why was Wally Hickel's nomination by Nixon so strongly opposed by many?**
A: *He was regarded as a builder and an exploiter of the environment.*

13. What major environmental crisis took place soon after Hickel came to office and began to cause a change in public perception about his care for the environment?

A: A giant oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, CA.

14. List 3 pro-environmental decisions that Hickel made while at his post.

A: -Put new regulations in place reducing the risk of oil spills, -put the cost of cleanup on the companies. -Brought charges large industrial water polluters. -Stopped a jetport from being built in the Everglades. -Put 8 species of whale on the Endangered Species List. -Formed a Student Council on Pollution.

15. What role did Wally Hickel play in shaping the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act?

A: He worked to make sure that it was a more generous settlement for Alaska Natives.

16. Why did Hickel write a letter to President Nixon rather than just talking to him?

A: The president didn't want to talk to him about the subject and Hickel wanted to get the ideas out to the public.

17. What was the President Nixon's reaction to the leaked letter?

A: He was angry, but he also thought about Hickel's ideas. Nixon fired Hickel, but waited a half of a year first, so as not to make Hickel seem like a hero in some people's eyes.

18. When Hickel went back up to Alaska, wrote a book. What was it called, and what was it about?

A: "Who Owns America?" A book about the power of ownership.

19. Hickel started calling Alaska "the Owner State", what did he mean by this?

A: A state with an economic system in which the government maintains ownership of the land's resources, but private enterprises are in charge of all production derived from those resources.

20. When Wally Hickel was elected as Governor again in 1990, how did he defy political stereotypes?

A: He went after oil companies to make them more responsible for their obligations to the state and yet he supported development in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve.

21. Even after Wally Hickel retired from political office, he kept on speaking and writing about what main subject?

A: Expanding the benefits of Alaska's Owner State concept to the rest of the world.

22. Hickel's vision centered on what he called "the Commons". What are the Commons?

A: The "Commons" are vast stretches of the planet that have no private owner.

23. Why did Hickel think that the commons were so important?

A: He believed that by managing and developing the commons, people could dramatically raise living standards for the benefit of their region, all over the world.

24. Where else around the world did Wally Hickel take his message about Alaska's model of the Owner State, and public management of the commons?

A: China, Russia and Africa.