*Where the Sea Breaks its Back* by Corey Ford

1. Read this excerpt with a partner or by yourself.
2. Choose to be either an Aleut or a Russian. Write and Type one of the following letters. Use details from the reading.

* If you are an Aleut, write a letter to another Native community on a neighboring island describing the Russians. What has your experience been so far with the Russians? What would you recommend other Alaskan natives do when the Russians arrive?
* If you are a Russian, write a letter back to other fur traders in Russia describing the Aleut and your life in Alaska.

Rubric for letter:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **F** | **D** | **C** | **B** | **A** |
| Letter demonstrates no understanding of the interactions between Russians and Aleuts. No details from the reading are included. Language shows confusion and letter includes fragments rather than sentences. Multiple significant errors of spelling, grammar, or usage. | Letter demonstrates very limited understanding of the interactions between Russians and Aleuts. Few details from the reading are included. Language is unclear and meaning may be unclear. Sentences are awkward or repetitive. Significant errors of spelling, grammar, or usage. | Letter demonstrates some understanding of the interactions between Russians and Aleuts. Some details from the reading are included. Language is occasionally unclear and sentences have limited variety. Letter suffers from errors of spelling, grammar, or usage. | Letter demonstrates a clear understanding of the interactions between Russians and Aleuts with specific details from the reading. Language is clear and sentences are well constructed. Letter contains only occasional errors of spelling, grammar, or usage. | Letter demonstrates a strong understanding of the interactions between Russians and Aleuts with multiple specific details from the reading. Language is clear and powerful and there are no significant errors in spelling, grammar, or usage. Letter may show a distinctive or elegant writing style. |