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Gates of the Arctic National Park



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always.frozen DAY 1: It took me long enough, but I finally made it to my research site in Alaska! I wasn't sure how I was going to pack all of my equipment and clothes without exceeding the 50lb baggage weight limit, but I managed to make it work after paying a small bagged fee. During the 200-250 mile flight from Fairbanks to my final destination, my plane flew right over the Gates of the Arctic National Park and the scenery was too beautiful - I HAD to get a picture.
The pilot said the high for today is 42 degrees and the weather is rainy. Good thing I packed a warm rain coat to keep me dry!

#Alaska #cold #polar #polarscience #research #STEM #excited



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Brrrrr



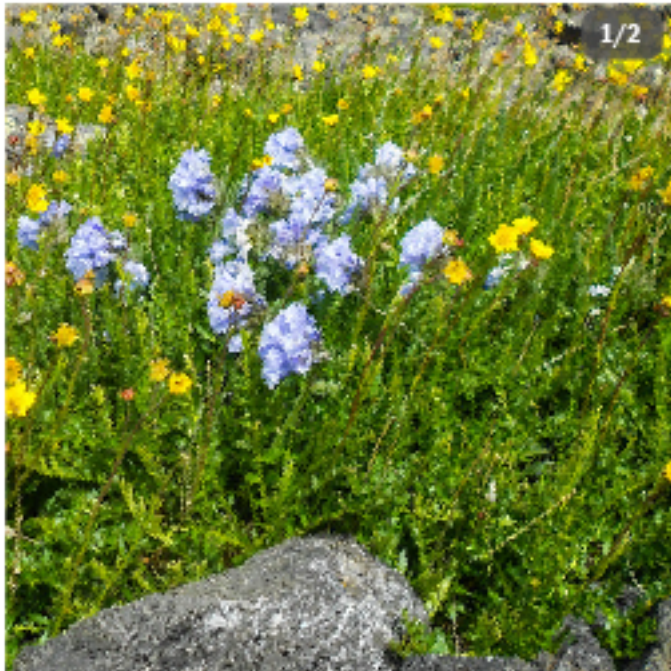
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always.frozen DAY 1: Without trees, you can see for MILES here! After I arrived at the airport, I was picked up by an all-terrain vehicle and driven a short distance to my campsite. We drove northeast along the runway, which took us right past the town. We carefully drove across a perennial stream and drove on the outskirts of a marsh. Once we drove to the top of a small hill, there was my campsite! I chose this specific site because it was close to my research area and it overlooked several small ponds and a lake. Without dense forest or shrubs, it is easy to see far into the distance to scout out sampling sites for my fieldwork.

#Alaska #coolview #polarscience #research #STEM #excited #camping #campingviews



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Alaska



1/2



10 Likes

always.frozen DAY 2: Today the weather is still in the lower 40's, but it is a dry day so I set up my weather station and picnic table and went for a little hike. While hiking, I came across a bunch of interesting flowers.

Blue flowers: it had waxy leaves and flowers that clustered on a tall stem. The bluish-purple flowers were bell-shaped with a yellow center.

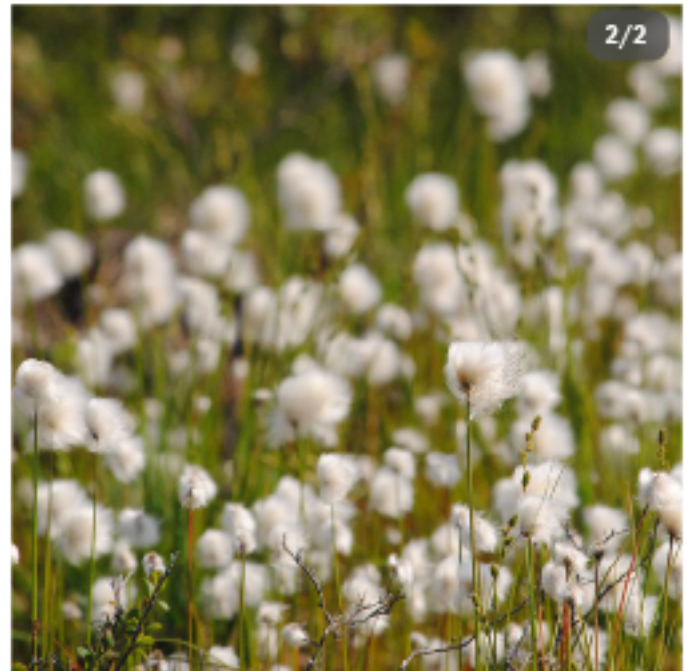
Yellow flowers: the flowers had long stems and they made a little cup shape. There were small black seeds inside the flower.

White flowers: the grassy field had flowers that looked almost like cotton. The leaves were skinny and the plant was over 12 inches tall!

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Alaska



2/2



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Alaska



57 Likes

always.frozen DAY 3: It is so difficult to sleep in a tent when the sun shines 24/7! But I am not complaining... it is dry outside and my weather station reported that the high today was 50 degrees.

It was a great day for research, so I packed a first aid kit, a water bottle, some trail mix, a mosquito net, my camera, a pair of waders, and sunscreen. Then I went to gather research data. At my research sites, I checked my water gauges and measured how much the banks of the river had moved. Research can be a slow-going process, but I am excited to learn more.

[#Alaska](#) [#sunshine](#) [#alwayssunny](#) [#nosleep](#) [#research](#)
[#streamdata](#) [#river](#) [#fieldsafety](#) [#erosion](#) [#streamerosion](#)