

Name _____

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UNCOVERING "ALEXANDER SUPERTRAMP"

Directions: List five (5) character traits of Chris McCandless (a.k.a. – Alexander Supertramp) in the chart below. Then, explain how you know the character is what you've said he is by using specific examples and detailed evidence from the excerpt, *Into the Wild*.

CHARACTER NAME: _____

Character Trait	I know that this trait applies to the character because...

Which of these character traits epitomizes this person? Explain. (Your explanation should be a paragraph in length! Use examples from the excerpt to support your analysis.)

CHRIS MCCANDLESS AND THOSE WHO KNEW HIM

Chris McCandless (a.k.a. - Alex Supertramp) - Chris McCandless is the subject of this book. He grew up in the Washington D.C. metro area and attended Emory University. When he graduated college, he donated his money to charity and headed out West. Away from home Chris went by the alias "Alex" and adopted the moniker "Alexander Supertramp" while hiking. Chris died of starvation on a much anticipated stint in the Alaskan wilderness.

Wayne Westerberg - Wayne Westerberg employed McCandless in Carthage, South Dakota. McCandless became friends with Westerberg and enjoyed his time in South Dakota so much that he claimed South Dakota as his home thereafter. Westerberg was able to supply authorities with McCandless's social security number when he was found dead, leading them to a positive identification.

Walt McCandless - Walt McCandless is Chris's father. In later years, Chris became angry with Walt when he learned Walt had a child by his first wife after Chris had been born to Walt's second wife.

Billie McCandless - Billie McCandless is Chris's mother. She and Walt began a private consulting firm and became successful enough to give Chris and his sister privileged lives.

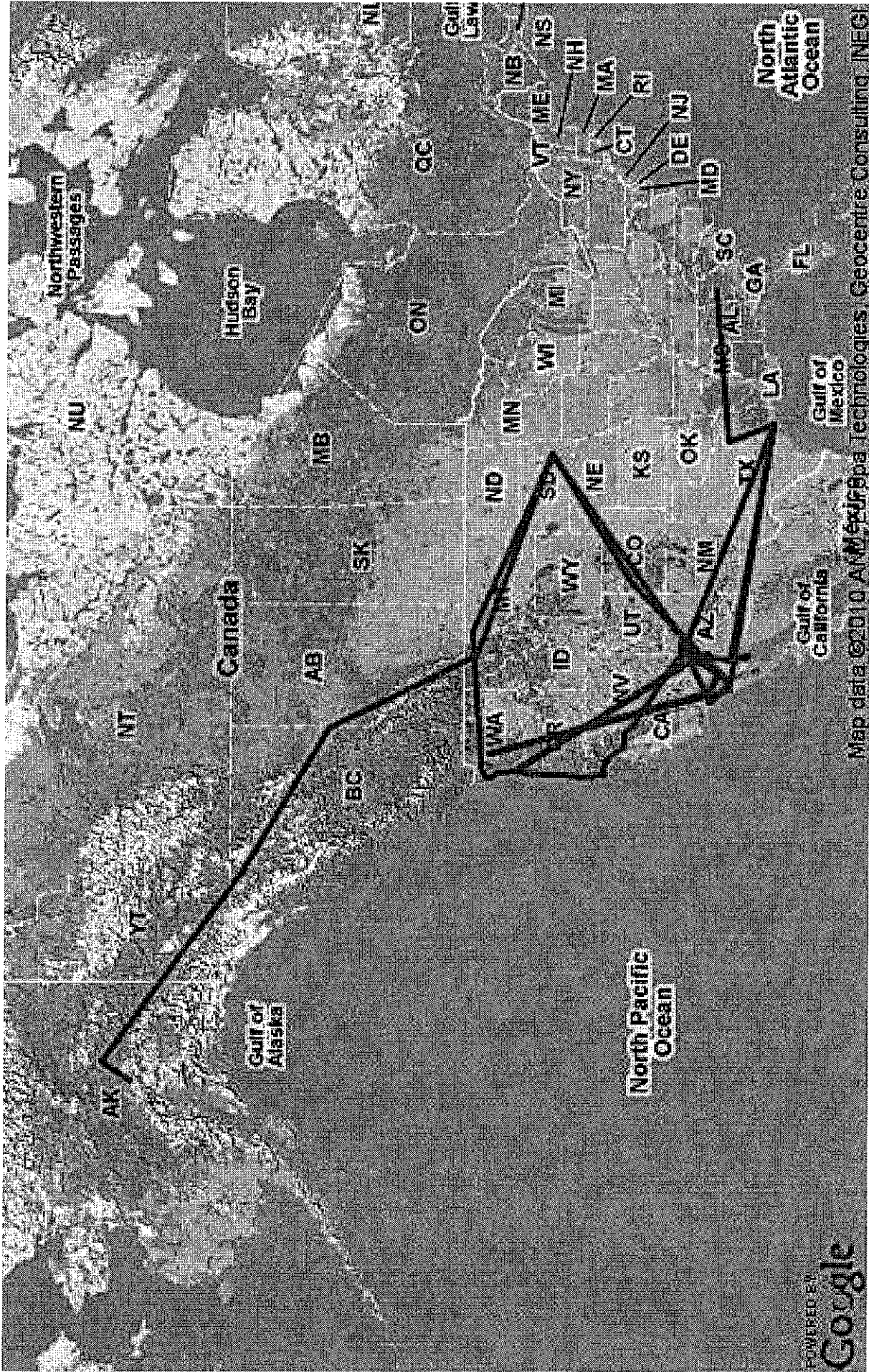
Carine McCandless - Carine is Chris's younger sister, borne to Billie McCandless. Carine was very close to her brother and had a very tough time dealing with his death.

Jim Gallien - Jim Gallien delivers the hitchhiking McCandless to his final destination. Gallien tries to make McCandless change his mind about his plans. Gallien is certain that Alex, as McCandless calls himself, is not prepared for life in the Alaskan outdoors. Gallien even offers to buy him some decent gear, but Alex refuses. Gallien insists that Alex take his boots and his lunch for the day; Gallien gives Alex his phone number, telling him to call if he makes it out alive.

Jan Burres (not in the excerpt) - McCandless meets Jan Burres and her boyfriend Bob, both transients, on the road. McCandless meets up with Jan and Bob a few times and keeps in touch with them periodically through post cards.

Ronald Franz (not in the excerpt) - Ronald Franz gives "Alex" a ride to his camp at Oh-My-God Hotsprings. Franz, who had lost his wife and only son some forty years earlier in a car accident, felt a connection with Alex. Franz and Alex developed a relationship and spent a lot of time together. Franz, who was a leatherworker, instructed Alex in the craft. Franz also fed Alex. One day Alex announced that he was going to San Diego. Franz was sad, but insisted on driving him. McCandless went on to Seattle, but returned soon to California. In California, McCandless met up with Franz again. Alex wanted to go out to South Dakota, where Wayne Westerberg had a job waiting for him-- Franz drove him part way there, video-taping their journey. Later, Alex wrote Franz a letter from South Dakota, urging him to become more nomadic. Franz took his advice, and occupied Alex's old campsite

TWO-YEAR ODYSSEY MAP OF CHRIS MCCANDLESS



THE STAMPEDE TRAIL BACKCOUNTRY - ALASKA

Within this square mileage of the Alaskan Wilderness, Chris McCandless survived for most of the spring and summer of 1992 (April 28 to August ??; approx. 113 days), ultimately succumbing to starvation sometime in mid-August. This area is some of the roughest backcountry in North America which includes wild game such as moose and caribou, but also predators such as wolves and grizzly bears.

