

EXPLORING INUIT CULTURE CURRICULUM

Teacher Resource Guide

by Rosa Flynn



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Canadian Version

by Rosa Flynn

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Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum includes:

- **Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum: Teacher Resource Guide**
- Offers 20 lessons with active learning suggestions for Grades 4, 5, 6, and extensive bibliographies
- *Isuma Inuit Studies Reader*
- Four documentary films on DVD, part of the Isuma Classics Video Collection:
 - **Qimuksik (Dog Team)**
 - **Aiviaq (Walrus Hunt)**
 - **Nanugiurutiga (My First Polar Bear)**
 - **Artcirq (Circus School)**
- One documentary film on DVD from Arnait Video Production:
 - **Unakuluk (Dear Little One)**
- Music CD of traditional Inuit ajaja songs by Igloolik Island performers and drummers:
 - **Unikkaat Sivunittinnit (Messages From the Past)**

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Introduction

Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum is a multi-media unit of instruction designed to teach students about the Inuit, the native people of the Canadian Arctic, and Nunavut, the newest territory in Canada established in 1999. This curriculum is unique not only because of the subject matter, but because it explores a native culture through its own eyes, as opposed to through the eyes of outsiders.

There is a significant native and growing immigrant population in Canada. The role of education includes building citizens who are not only respectful of different cultures but can draw from the strengths of their traditions. By offering authentic information designed from the perspective of a native people, ***Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*** is a tool enabling educators to begin building this foundation.

Currently, there are a limited number of curriculum materials available on the Canadian Arctic. While some include a brief introduction to Inuit culture, there is no comprehensive multi-media unit of study exploring the Inuit of the territory of Nunavut. The lack of materials available for study, and the growing interest in understanding native cultures, has created a need for in-depth quality Inuit culture teaching materials. ***Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*** is designed to fulfill this need.



Overview of Materials

Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum includes:

- **Teacher Resource Guide** consisting of:
 - 20 lesson plans on Inuit culture and life in the Canadian Arctic
 - Detailed maps of Canada and Nunavut
 - Access to SILA, an interactive website on Inuit culture
 - Nunavut Facts at a Glance
 - Exploring Inuit Culture – Word Search
- *Isuma Inuit Studies Reader*, a collection of historical and modern readings introducing students to the Inuit of the Arctic.
- 4 films on DVD, part of the Isuma Classics Video Collection:
 - ***Qimuksik (Dog Team)***, 28 minutes
 - ***Aiviaq (Walrus Hunt)***, 28 minutes
 - ***Nanugiurutiga (My First Polar Bear)***, 48 minutes
 - ***Artcirq (Circus School)***, 50 minutes
- ***Unakuluk (Dear Little One)***, from Arnait Video Production, a documentary which takes an intimate look at the common Inuit practice of adopting a child from a relative, friend or acquaintance, 46 minutes.
- ***Unikkaat Sivunittinnit (Messages from the Past)***, recording of traditional Inuit ajaja songs by Igloodik Island performers and drummers, 50 minutes.

Objectives of *Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*

The objectives of ***Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*** are:

- 1 Enable educators to accurately teach students about the Inuit of Nunavut, and life in Canada's Arctic;
- 2 Provide a multi-media curriculum that educates students about the culture and traditions of a native people, making it unique because it is designed from the Inuit perspective;
- 3 Offer lesson plans that support multiple learning standards, in different subject areas;
- 4 Allow students the opportunity to use the Internet as a research tool by providing educators with approved web sites related to the Inuit culture and Arctic life.



Strategies for Teaching *Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*

The lesson plans contained in the **Teacher Resource Guide** are organized in three sections:

- SECTION 1: Educational Documentaries on DVD
- SECTION 2: *Isuma Inuit Studies Reader*
- SECTION 3: Lesson Plans on Inuit Culture

When using the curriculum with students, there are several strategies by which this material can be taught.



- 1 It is recommended that the first lesson taught to students is *Qimuksik (Dog Team)*, offering a first glimpse at the land and an introduction to the culture, followed by Nunavut Flag and Coat of Arms, providing background information on Nunavut. Together, these two lessons are the foundation of the curriculum.
- 2 The lesson plans in SECTION 1: Educational Documentaries on DVD and SECTION 2: *Isuma Inuit Studies Reader* are sequenced in chronological order. The lesson plans in SECTION 3: Lesson Plans on Inuit Culture are sequenced according to the order in which it is recommended they be taught. One strategy is to teach the lessons in Section 3 in the order presented, alternating with lessons from Sections 1 and 2.

Strategies for Teaching *Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*

- 3 Another strategy is to choose lesson plans that fulfill other mandated areas of study. For example, some lessons incorporate Science and/or Language Arts learning standards in addition to Social Studies.
- 4 Several lesson plans require students to use the Internet as a research tool. Teachers may choose to incorporate ***Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*** into their own technology curriculum, structuring the unit so those lessons requiring Internet access are taught during or prior to the students' computer lab. If possible, teachers may choose to list the sites for each lesson on the computer server beforehand, eliminating the need for students to type each web site address.
- 5 Teachers may select several different lessons each time they teach the topics of the Arctic or aboriginal cultures to their students.

Using the SILA Web Site

www.sila.nu

At www.sila.nu, educators have the opportunity to guide their students through an Internet exploration of the Canadian Arctic. Combining the strengths of technology with guiding cultural and instructional design principles, SILA supports the content in ***Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*** and offers interactive educational materials that encourage and foster learning. The web site is divided into three main sections: **Explore, Participate** and **Learn**.

SILA – Explore

Through the **Explore** section of www.sila.nu students have the opportunity to witness the making of the second feature film from Igloodik Isuma Productions, ***The Journals of Knud Rasmussen***. Students travel to the Arctic community of Igloodik and see the Inuit style of filmmaking in action. Participants meet the cast and crew and learn about the historical events and characters depicted in the story. Also in **Explore**, students learn more about ***Atanarjuat – The Fast Runner***, the first feature film ever produced, written, directed and acted by the Inuit of Arctic Canada. Students and teachers are directed to this section in the lesson plan [The Inuit Style of Filmmaking](#).

SILA – Participate

In this section, students will engage in ‘The Great Arctic Hunter’ game – an adventure of skill, strategy and survival set in the Arctic in the 1930s. New interactive games will be continually added to the **Participate** section for students to explore independently or as a full class. Students are encouraged to play ‘The Great Arctic Hunter’ during the lesson plan [Animals of the Arctic](#).

SILA – Learn

The SILA encyclopedia, available in the **Learn** section of www.sila.nu, gives students access to definitions and photos of numerous words associated with Inuit culture and the Arctic. Categories include [Animals and Nature](#), [Inuit Culture](#) and [Language and Life in the North](#), further assisting student exploration of this unique and exciting part of their country.