

# Section 1

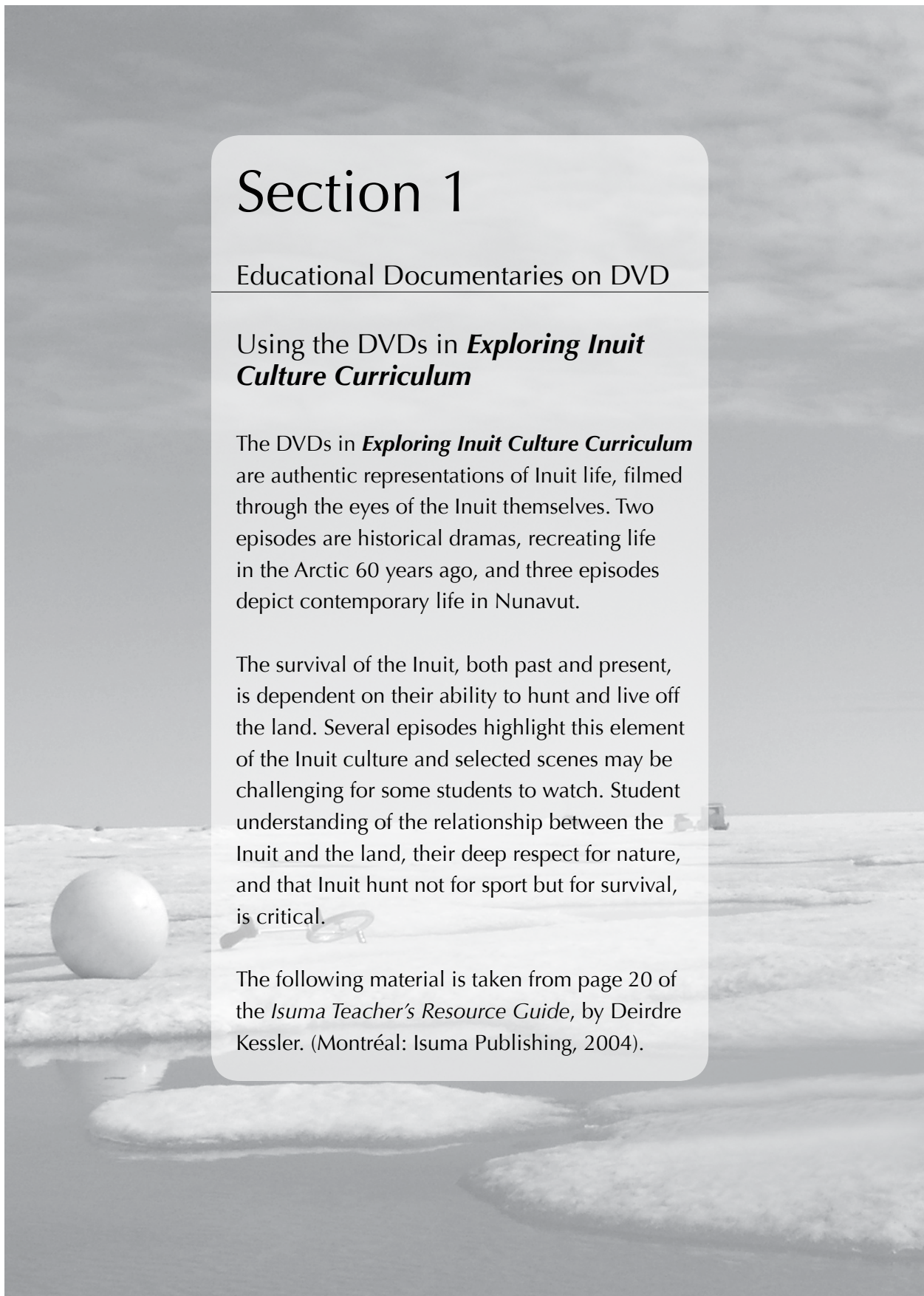
## Educational Documentaries on DVD

### Using the DVDs in *Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*

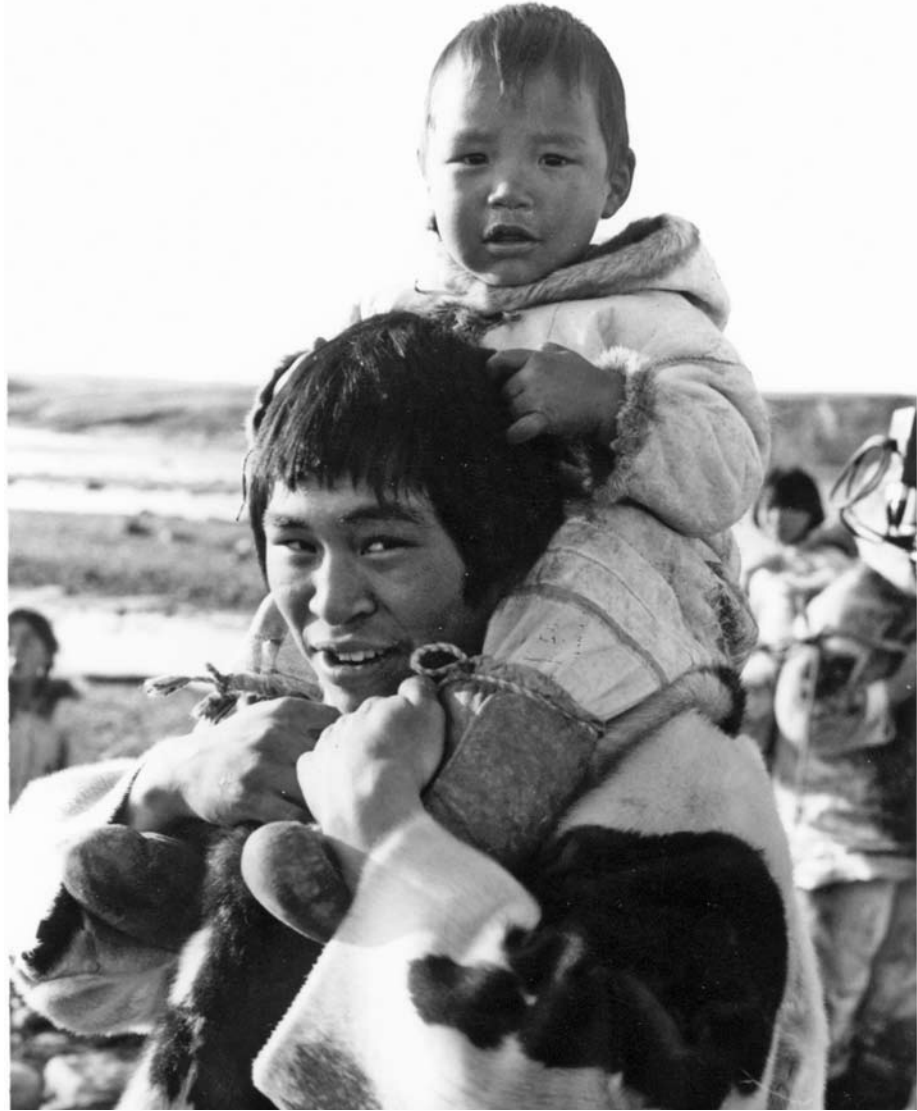
The DVDs in *Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum* are authentic representations of Inuit life, filmed through the eyes of the Inuit themselves. Two episodes are historical dramas, recreating life in the Arctic 60 years ago, and three episodes depict contemporary life in Nunavut.

The survival of the Inuit, both past and present, is dependent on their ability to hunt and live off the land. Several episodes highlight this element of the Inuit culture and selected scenes may be challenging for some students to watch. Student understanding of the relationship between the Inuit and the land, their deep respect for nature, and that Inuit hunt not for sport but for survival, is critical.

The following material is taken from page 20 of the *Isuma Teacher's Resource Guide*, by Deirdre Kessler. (Montréal: Isuma Publishing, 2004).



## Using the DVDs in *Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*



The 13-part **Nunavut (Our Land)** series follows five fictional families through the different seasons of an Arctic year, from the glorious northern spring to a uniquely Inuit Christmas Day. Other programs include contemporary documentaries on whale and polar bear hunting, modern leadership, elders' advice, and a youth group's effort to learn circus skills to reduce youth suicide.

## Using the DVDs in *Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*

The 8-part **Unikaatuatiit (Story Tellers)** series features many storytellers (elders, youth, women, men) and many different narrative or storytelling forms (drama, documentary, historical re-enactment, performance), all of which are rooted in the ancient art of Inuit storytelling and told from the Inuit point of view. Both the **Nunavut** and **Unikaatuatiit** series were written, directed, produced and acted by Inuit. They use contemporary Inuit actors to recreate the traditional nomadic lifestyle of the Inuit in the Igloodik region of the Arctic in the 1940s.

Jayson Kunnuk, an Inuk writer of Igloodik, writes, “From my own experience and by watching these great videos, I see it is important that all the people are working together; this keeps the family together and enables them to get all their tasks done. The lifestyle is active; there’s always something happening, not much idle time, so people are never bored.” (Isuma Teacher’s Resource Guide, page 20)

Included in **Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum** are 2 films from the 13-part **Nunavut (Our Land)** series and 2 films from the 8-part **Unikaatuatiit (Story Tellers)** series. Prior to each lesson plan in Section 1, Jayson Kunnuk offers highlights from the featured film.

Also included in Section 1 of **Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum** is **Unakuluk (Dear Little One)**, a documentary directed by Marie-Hélène Cousineau and Mary Kunuk, produced by Arnait Video Production in 2005. This film chronicles the adoption of Alex, a child born to an Inuit family, by Marie-Hélène Cousineau, a non-Inuit woman living in Montréal. The film explores adoption from an Inuit point of view. Prior to the lesson plan showcasing **Unakuluk (Dear Little One)**, one of the directors, Marie-Hélène Cousineau, offers a brief summary of the film.