

- Jooose, Barbara M. and Barbara Lavallee. *Mama, Do You Love Me?* Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA; 1991.
- Santella, Andrew. *The Inuit*. Scholastic Library, New York, NY; 2001.
- Taylor, Theodore and Margaret Chodos-Irvine. *Hello, Arctic!* Harcourt, New York, NY; 2002.



My Family from Greenland

Grades K–4

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Families Around The World Video Series

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- MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND
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From Asia to Africa, city to suburb, or rural farm to tropical rain forest, the presence of the family is common to all people and present in every culture throughout the world. Studying families from different places helps us to learn and appreciate both the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Also, through exposure to cultures that are unfamiliar to them, children can learn to be accepting of people, lifestyles and traditions that may be very different from their own. The family — that special group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other — is both explored and celebrated in *Families Around the World*.



Program Summary

In *My Family from Greenland*, students will meet 13-year-old Tinka and her Inuit family of eight. Tinka and her family live a rustic life in Kulusk, a town of about 340 people, located on the eastern coast of Greenland. For Tinka, strong family ties and helping family members is a way of life. Tinka's daily chores involve fetching water from the well, and helping her mother care for her younger brothers and sisters. Tinka enjoys school and learning the traditional handicrafts of the Inuit people. Her grandmother is teaching her the delicate art of pearling, and Tinka also enjoys sewing with sealskin. Students will see Tinka's family celebrating a cousin's birthday, and watch Tinka perform the traditional drum dance which she learned from her Uncle Anda.

Geographical Information

Greenland, located in the north Atlantic Ocean, is the largest island in the world, with an area of approximately 2 million square kilometers. Its capital is Nuuk, and its population is about 56,000. Greenland is a dependency of Denmark. Greenland's major physical characteristic is its enormous ice sheet which covers about 85% of the land and has an average thickness of 5,000 feet. The country's vegetation is mostly tundra, and polar bears, musk-oxen and reindeer can be found there. Most Greenlanders are of Inuit extraction and speak Greenlandic, which is an Inuit language.

Pre-viewing Discussion

Using a web, brainstorm with your students to determine who they consider to be members of their family. Share with your students that families come in all shapes and sizes, and that a family is a group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other. Use the following questions to help students access their thoughts and ideas about families:

- Who do you care for, love and help?
- Who cares for, loves and helps you?
- Does a family member have to be a person who lives with you?

After this discussion, ask students to draw a family portrait which includes all the people who they consider to be members of their family.

Follow-up Discussion

After viewing the program with your class, discuss the similarities and differences between their families and Tinka's family. Refer students back to the original definition of a family: *A group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other*. Ask them to provide examples from the video that demonstrate how this particular family expresses love, shows care and provides help for each other.

Follow-up Activities

- Ask your students to think about either something a family member taught them to do or something that they taught another family member. Have them write paragraphs which describe what they learned or taught another family member.
- Divide your class into groups of four to learn about Arctic animals. On a large piece of butcher block paper, students can illustrate the animal, its environment, adaptations and other relevant facts.
- Drum dancing is an important part of Inuit life. Make a coffee can drum and then have students perform a drum dance. Excellent how-to instructions are available at www.kinderart.com/multic/cofdrum.shtml
- Read the Inuit folktale, "The Raven Myth" to your students. (A copy of the story is available at educate.si.edu/resources/lessons/siyc/eskimo/page05.html) Have students illustrate and/or write about their favorite part of the story.
- Make Scrimshaw. This activity is the art of engraving on whalebone, whale teeth, or walrus tusks. Students can use cakes of white soap to simulate whale bones. Excellent how-to instructions are available at www2.grand-forks.k12.nd.us/iditarod/scrimshaw.html
- Make Inuit finger masks. Used during traditional dancing, finger masks are used to accentuate the movements of the hands. This is an excellent activity for both younger and older students. Instruction on how to make finger masks can be found at www2.grand-forks.k12.nd.us/iditarod/fingermasks.html
- Tinka's Uncle Anda makes and sells tupilaks, a kind of Inuit good luck charm. Students can create their own tupilaks either by using clay, or by making a soap carving using plastic utensils. Photographs of soap carvings can be found at www2.grand-forks.k12.nd.us/Iditarod/soapcarvings.htm

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.angelfire.com/ca/antiquescrimshaw/
This Web site provides many wonderful photographs of scrimshaw.
- www.greenland-guide.dk/
This site provides photographs and lots of information about outdoor activities, animal life, and the culture and history of Greenland.

Suggested Print Resources

- Dabcovich, Lydia. *The Polar Bear Son: An Inuit Tale*. Houghton Mifflin, New York, NY; 1999.
- Dupre, Kelly. *The Raven's Gift: A True Story from Greenland*. Houghton Mifflin, New York, NY; 2001.
- Gunzi, Christiane. *The Best Book of Polar Animals*. Houghton Mifflin, New York, NY; 2002

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