

Suggested Print Resources

- Arnold, Tim. *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY; 1993.
- Fisher, Leonard Everett. *Gods and Goddesses of the Ancient Norse*. Holiday House, New York, NY; 2001.
- Somerville, Barbara A. *Iceland (Enchantment of the World Series)*. Scholastic, New York, NY; 2003.

**My Family from Iceland****Grades K–4****TEACHER'S GUIDE****Julia McMeans, M.Ed.**

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Families Around The World Video Series**includes these 24 programs:**

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| • MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL | • MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND | • MY FAMILY FROM NEW YORK CITY |
| • MY FAMILY FROM BURKINA FASO | • MY FAMILY FROM ICELAND | • MY FAMILY FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO |
| • MY FAMILY FROM CHILE | • MY FAMILY FROM INDIA | • MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA |
| • MY FAMILY FROM CHINA | • MY FAMILY FROM ISRAEL | • MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH KOREA |
| • MY FAMILY FROM COSTA RICA | • MY FAMILY FROM ITALY | • MY FAMILY FROM VIETNAM |
| • MY FAMILY FROM CUBA | • MY FAMILY FROM JAPAN | • MY INUIT FAMILY FROM CANADA |
| • MY FAMILY FROM ENGLAND | • MY FAMILY FROM JORDAN | • MY XHOSA FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA |
| • MY FAMILY FROM FRANCE | • MY FAMILY FROM LAPLAND | |
| | • MY FAMILY FROM LOS ANGELES | |

Teacher's Guides Included
and Available Online at:

**800-843-3620**

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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 Iceland*, students will meet 8-year-old Inga Beta and her *ffjolskylda*, which is the Icelandic word for family! Inga Beta, her mother, father and two younger twin brothers live in Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland. Inga Beta enjoys writing and playing the piano. As we join Inga Beta, we see her visiting her Amma (grandmother) of whom she is very proud. Inga Beta loves when her grandmother makes her pancakes and shares with her their book of family history. Most Icelandic families have a book like this, and Inga Beta's goes back 300 years! Students will join Inga Beta and her family as they prepare for a traditional Icelandic celebration called Thorraþlot. During this celebration, families gather to sing folksongs and enjoy Icelandic foods like fruit tarts and pickled shark.

Geographical Information

Iceland, with an area of approximately 100,000 square kilometers, is an island country located in the North Atlantic Ocean. Iceland was founded over 1,000 years ago during the age of Viking exploration. Modern Icelanders are of Norse and Celtic descent, and due primarily to its physical isolation, Iceland has remained ethnically homogeneous. The country's population is approximately 300,000, and its capital is Reykjavik. Icelanders speak Icelandic. Iceland's climate is subarctic so it is relatively cold most of the time. There are no reptiles or amphibians in Iceland, but it does have Europe's most varied colony of ducks. Iceland is a Scandinavian country which can boast the world's oldest democracy.

Reykjavik, Iceland's capital and largest town, is located in southwestern Iceland. It is the commercial, industrial and cultural center of the country, with a population of approximately 88,000. Reykjavik supports several professional theatres, an orchestra, opera and a biennial international art festival.

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 Inga Beta's. 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

- Divide your class into groups of four and have them create a new yearly celebration. Students can name their holiday, tell when and why it is being celebrated, describe what kinds of food and activities will be enjoyed on this day, and then design a poster announcing the new celebration.
- Using a Venn diagram, ask students to compare and contrast the Icelandic celebration of Thorraþlot with the American celebration of Thanksgiving.
- Ask your students to think of a brave deed that they, a friend or family member carried out. Have them write heroic sagas telling of these brave deeds. Explain that they should be written in the third person. Students can provide illustrations.
- Divide your class into 12 groups to create a Norse Mythology calendar. Assign each group a figure from Norse Mythology and a month. Have them illustrate their particular Norse God, providing captions which tell about him or her. Then have them create the appropriate calendar page to accompany their illustration. Compile these to produce a class calendar.
- Provide your students with a blank map of Scandinavia. Have them locate and label all Scandinavian countries and capitals.
- Create an informational poster about orcas, also known as killer whales. Have students draw an orca, label its body parts, and provide details about their diets and habitats.

Suggested Internet Resources

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

- www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/whales/speices/Orca.shtml
This Web site provides information, illustrations and print-outs relating to orcas.
- www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0197623.html
This site provides detailed information about Norse Mythology in a child-friendly manner.
- www.interknowledge.com/iceland/main.htm
This site offers photographs and information about Iceland's geography, culture and people.