

Sprockets

Toronto International FILM
Festival for children
April 14-18, 2008

A great deal of thanks and appreciation goes out to our teacher committees who volunteer their time to assist in the development of Sprockets lesson plans.

TITLE:	Unna & Nuuk
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:	<i>Finland</i>
RELEASE YEAR:	<i>2006</i>
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE:	<i>Finnish</i>
DIRECTOR:	Saara Cantell
RUNTIME:	<i>83 Minutes</i>
CURRICULUM LINKS:	History, Teamwork, Indigenous Tribes, Science.

Focusing Question:

History: Why is it important to learn from one's history?

Science: Our wonderful standard of living has come at a great environmental cost: Are there ways we can reduce our energy consumption?

Recommended for Grades 3 - 6

Eleven-year-old Unna shares a special bond with her grandfather. When he falls ill, he reveals to his granddaughter that she is descended from shamans and has the power to heal. Following his instructions, she goes to his house, finds a special book and beats a magic drum three times to transport herself back to the Stone Age in search of a medicinal plant to heal her grandfather.

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Arriving in the distant past, Unna meets Nuuk, the son of his tribe's shaman. The two are soon captured by an invading tribe but, working together, they manage to outsmart their captors. Having escaped, Unna learns about Nuuk's way of life as they make their way through the forest to his tribe. The tribe is in trouble: the invaders have cut off their water supply. It is up to Unna and Nuuk to convince the two tribes to live in peace and harmony, with each other, and also with the environment. Meanwhile, Unna must find the plant her grandfather urgently needs and transport it to him before it is too late.

Beautifully shot and filled with adventure, the captivating *Unna and Nuuk* explores friendship, cooperation, respect for the environment and the importance of learning about one's roots to better understand the present

Teacher Endorsement: "This is a film that educators can connect to their curriculum on a few different levels, indigenous culture, examples of character education. This has a nice storyline that bounces back and forth from present day to past native folklore."

Director's Filmography:

UNNA AND NUUK (2006)

Pre-Screening Preparation:

Have students research the term "shaman." Learn what the role of a shaman is within a tribe and why they were regarded as a very special person.

During Screening Question/Activity:

Have students consider the following questions while screening the film:

- 1) What is naturopathic medicine?
- 2) Does the film suggest ways of living a less energy reliant lifestyle?
- 3) Whose point of view is represented in this film?
- 4) When was the climax of this film?

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Post-Screening Activity:

Discuss "During Screening Questions" with students.
Have students write a journal entry for an alternative ending to the film.
What would they change about the storyline? What would the characters do differently and why?

Conclusion/Wrap-Up: Following the journey of a young girl who must time travel to the past in search of a special plant needed to heal her dying grandfather, this film gives examples of looking to the past for solutions needed in the present. It depicts how problems may be solved when one works with and learns from other cultures and people. This presents a great introduction for students to study about a different culture or country.