

Cultural Emergence | The Power of Storytelling

Never Alone: PLAYER IMPACT GUIDE

13+ | 1-3 Hours

“Gather close and I will tell you an unipkaaq, a story that has been passed to me from generations past. I learned this tale from Nasruk many years ago. He told me that there is great wisdom in listening for those who are willing to bear. Remember, when you are part of the Iñupiat people, you are never alone.”

-- Never Alone



ABOUT Never Alone

Never Alone is a puzzle-platform game that leverages traditional Alaska Native stories along with the culture of the Iñupiaq community. In *Never Alone*, players take on the roles of Nuna, a young Iñupiaq girl and her companion, an Arctic fox, as they search for the source of an endless blizzard that is imperiling her village. The game features striking visuals and emphasizes the themes of interdependence, survival and inter-generational exchange and includes additional indigenous stories and cultural content that is ‘unlocked’ through gameplay.

For game information, visit: <http://neveralonegame.com/>

THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: The Power of Storytelling

For as long as humans have had the ability to communicate we have told stories passed from generation to generation in the traditions of oral stories, rituals and plays. Stories that transcend cultures and context, are those that explore universal human themes, in engaging and entertaining formats. These stories guide generations navigating the stages of life from birth to death. As humans evolve, so do our mediums for storytelling. Oral stories, rituals and plays continue, but new communication platforms also emerged such as books, comics, radio, movies and television. Despite the change in delivery, stories that remain across generations combine deeply relevant themes with the craft of great storytelling to effectively leverage the unique affordances of a chosen medium.

WHY USE THIS GUIDE?

In this guide, we invite you to think about how stories are used to “pass down” knowledge and beliefs that have been developed over many generations. They serve to connect the past, present, and future. Games represent a new form of storytelling where the Iñupiaq culture is both told through video and an immersive game experience for the player.

Answer the questions below and add up your points when you are finished!

GAME BASICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play the first chapter of <i>Never Alone</i>. How does the opening of introduce you to the storm and open Nuna’s journey? [+1] • Switch between Nuna and Fox as you play. What are the different abilities for Nuna and Fox? [+2] • Play <i>Never Alone</i> in cooperatively with another person. How does it affect the game? [+2] • Go the main menu and watch a few Cultural Insight videos that you unlocked. How do the additional stories affect the game experience? [+3]
THEME INSIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Knuussaayuka? How many generations of Iñupiaq have struggled with Knuussaayuka? [+1] • How do the Cultural Insights augment the meaning of <i>Never Alone</i>? [+2] • What does Fox represent? What does it mean for Nuna that Fox shows up for this journey? [+2] • What does Nuna learn as she struggles to return home? [+3]
WORLD CONNECTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did a game, versus another platform, make this a unique cultural learning experience? How is the Iñupiaq culture similar and different to your own? [+1] • What stories does your family frequently tell? How does telling your family’s stories connect you? [+2] • What are some stories from your culture? What lessons do they provide? [+3]

Bonus Challenge: Create your own Cultural Insight video, or image and text, sharing a story from your family or culture. Upload to your favorite social media platform and share a link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact>.