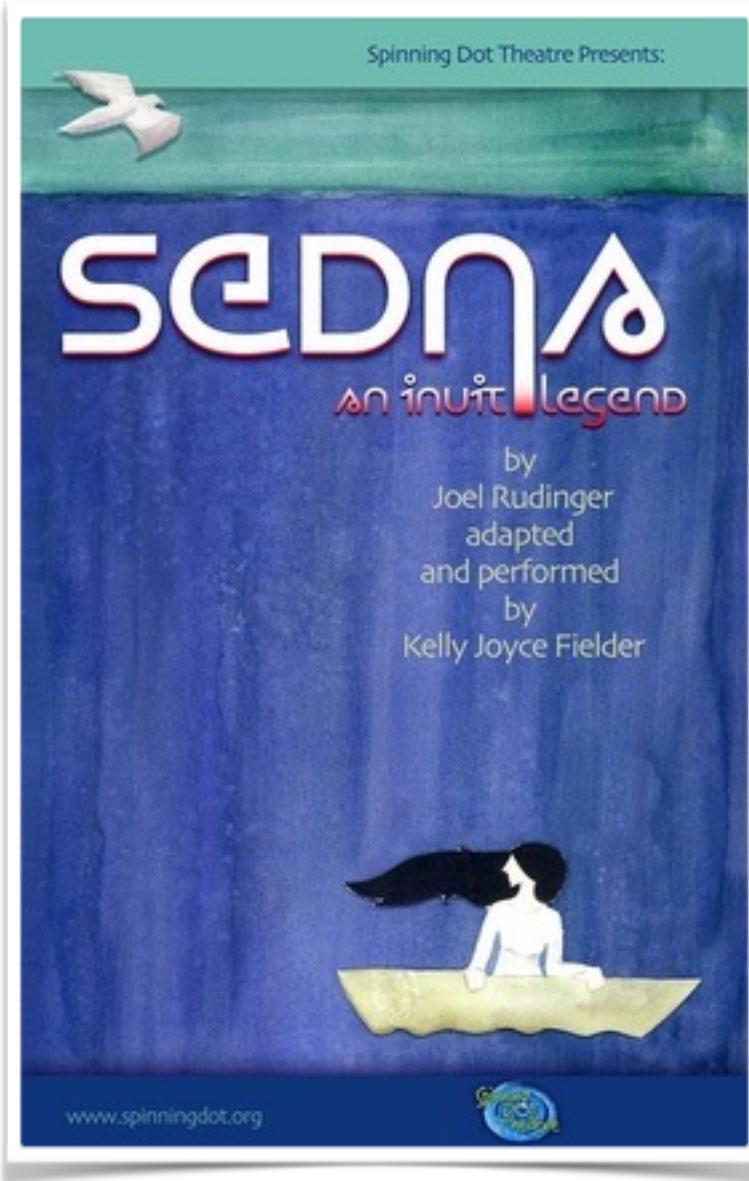


# Sedna ~ a study guide



## What is "Sedna" about?

Sedna is a story from Inuit folklore about the origin of sea mammals.

Sedna is born long ago in Northern North America. Winters are cold and harsh. We watch as she grows from a small child to an independent young woman, learning how to make decisions and deal with their consequences, ultimately learning the true meaning of sacrifice.



### First Ever!

"Sedna" was the first play ever from a Spinning Dot Artist-in-Residence.

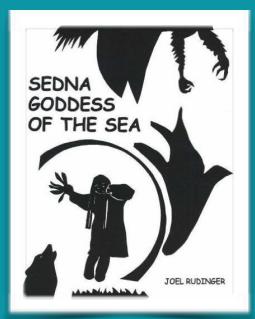


### Igloo

Our tent is meant to feel like an igloo. How do you think we did?



Kelly Joyce Fielder adapted this play! The legend already existed, and she gets to retell it in her own way. Kelly worked on the play for about eight months and has gotten to perform it more than thirty times! She worked from a book-version of Sedna, written by a man named Joel Rudging. Kelly even got to meet Joel once, and he signed her book for her! The book is about 65 pages and Kelly got to pick which pieces would be in her play. Check out the book to hear even more of Sedna's story!

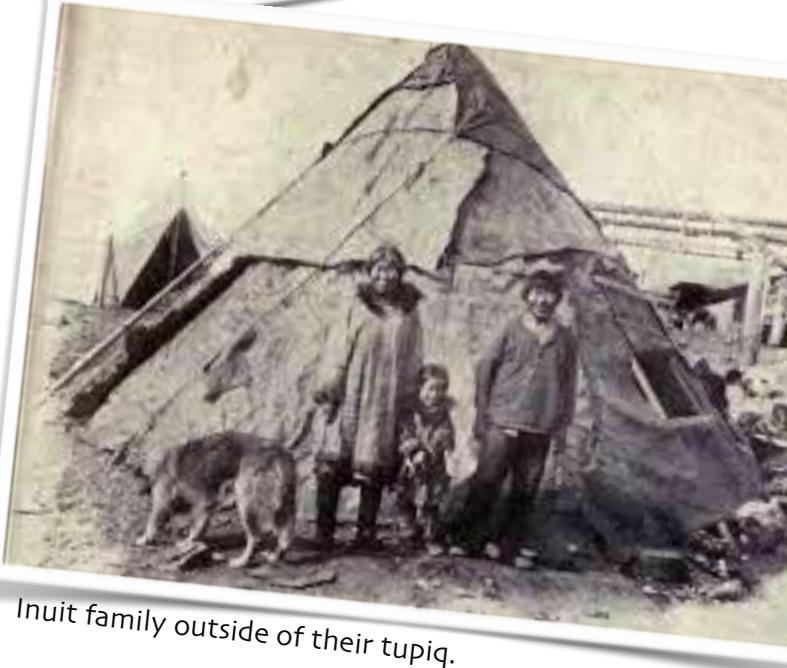


## What does “Inuit” mean?

“Inuit” is an Inuktitut word means “the people”. The term “Inuit” refers to aboriginal people from the Arctic regions of Canada, Alaska, and even parts of Greenland! Sometimes, you might hear people call the Inuit people “Eskimos”, but mostly it’s best to say “Inuit.”

“Inuit” is a plural term. If you want to talk about one person, you would use the word “Inuk.”

Snow Sculpture depicting Sedna and the Bird Spirit at the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Festival.



Inuit family outside of their tupiq.



Because they are from such a cold land, it's hard for fruits and vegetables grow, so they mostly eat meats that they hunted or fished for. If they are not catching enough during their fishing trips, it is said that this is because Sedna is angry and does not want to provide for the fishermen. A spiritual leader, called a Shaman, will go to Sedna and brush her hair.

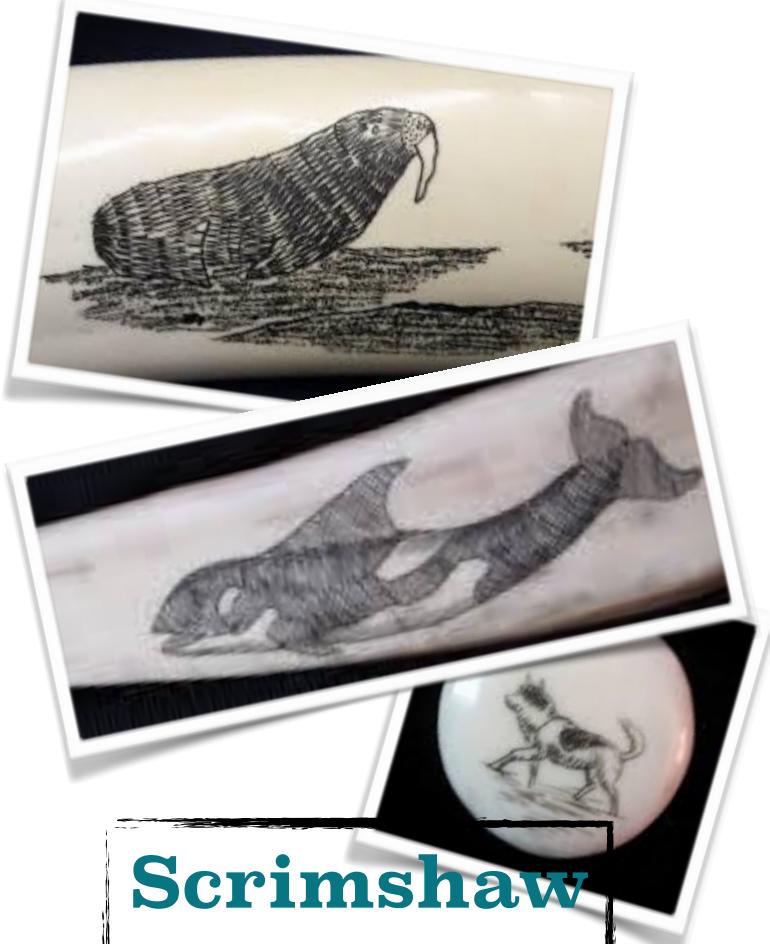
This makes Sedna happy again and will provide for her people again.

During the winter, certain Inuit make temporary homes called “igloos” made out of snow and ice. During the Summer months, they live in portable tents made out of animal skins called “tupiq.”

Inuit are generally very spiritual people. Some Inuit believe that the spirits of their ancestors could be seen in the Northern Lights. In our play, Sedna sits in the nest of the Bird Spirit and watches the Northern Lights.

## The Drum

The Inuit Drum is a traditional instrument. They are traditionally made from caribou skin. Inuit drums are unique because you are trained to hit the rim of the drum, not the middle. The drum is held low while played and is accompanied by dancing to make the musician mimic a polar bear! Sedna's father play the drum in the play.



## Scrimshaw

Scrimshaw is a traditional Inuit art style. It is carvings and drawings done on whale bones and walrus tusks. These pieces of art would often be inspired by mythical stories, like Sedna. The scrimshaws would then be used for story telling. The shadow puppetry in our play was inspired by this art and should remind you of a scrimshaw!



## MUSIC

The Kalimba is an instrument from Africa sometimes called a "thumb piano". It consists of a wooden board with metal keys attached to it. The instrument is played by holding the instrument in the hands and plucking at the metal with the thumbs. You can hear the Kalimba in the play!



# WHALE FACTS

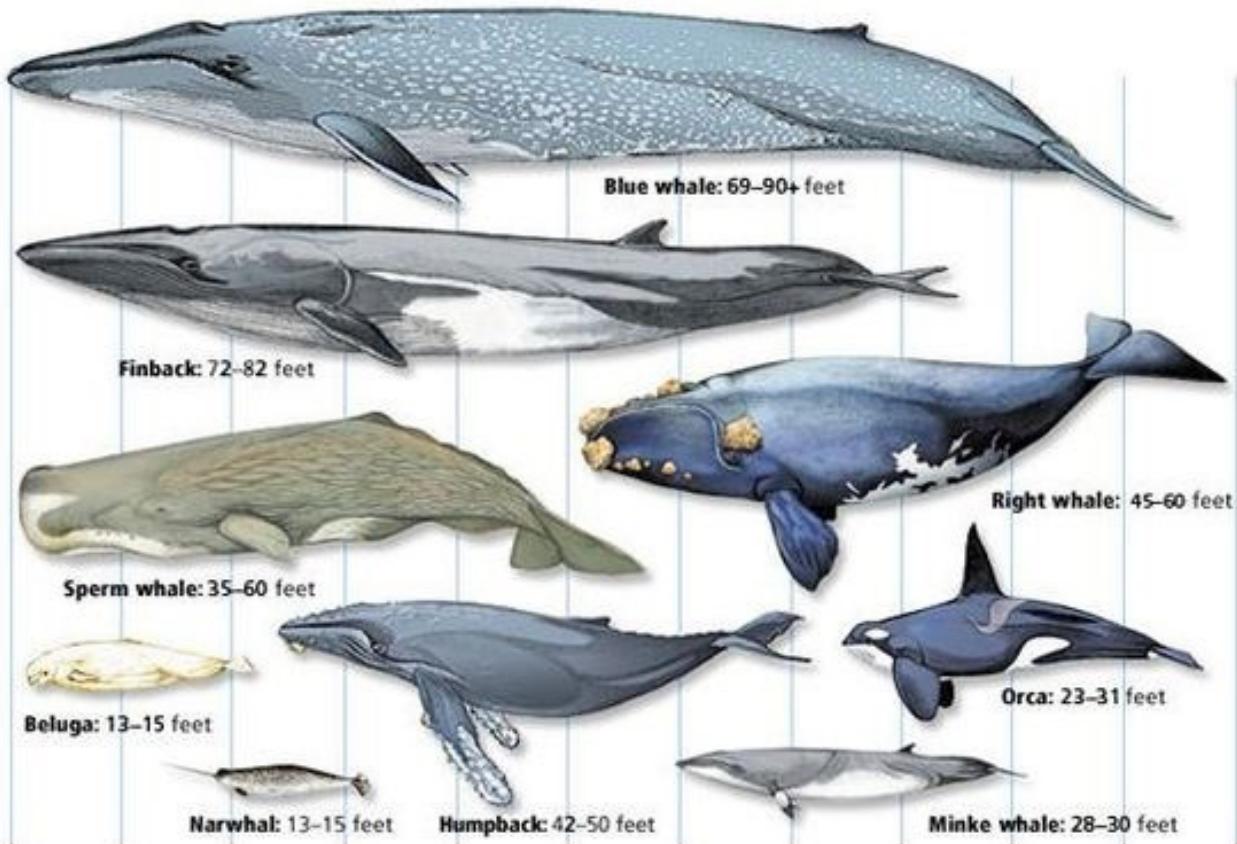
Whales are marine mammals. That means that they can breath air, are warm blooded, and the mothers make milk for their calves!

The Blue Whale is the largest animal on Earth!  
The largest ever recorded was 110 feet long!

There are 84 different species of whales in the world!

Whales breath air, just like humans, but instead of breathing through their mouths or nose, the breath through a blow hole in the top of their head!

A family of whales traveling together is called a "pod"



# Sedna, the PLANET?!

In 2003, a scientist names Mike Brown was surveying our Solar System. Brown and his team found a dwarf planet about 8 billion miles away and decided to name it Sedna! Sedna takes about 10,000 years to make one orbit around the sun.



"Our newly discovered object is the coldest most distant place known in the Solar System, so we feel it is appropriate to name it in honor of Sedna, the Inuit goddess of the sea, who is thought to live at the bottom of the frigid Arctic Ocean."

- Mike Brown, Scientist

**Connect the dots to reveal the image!**

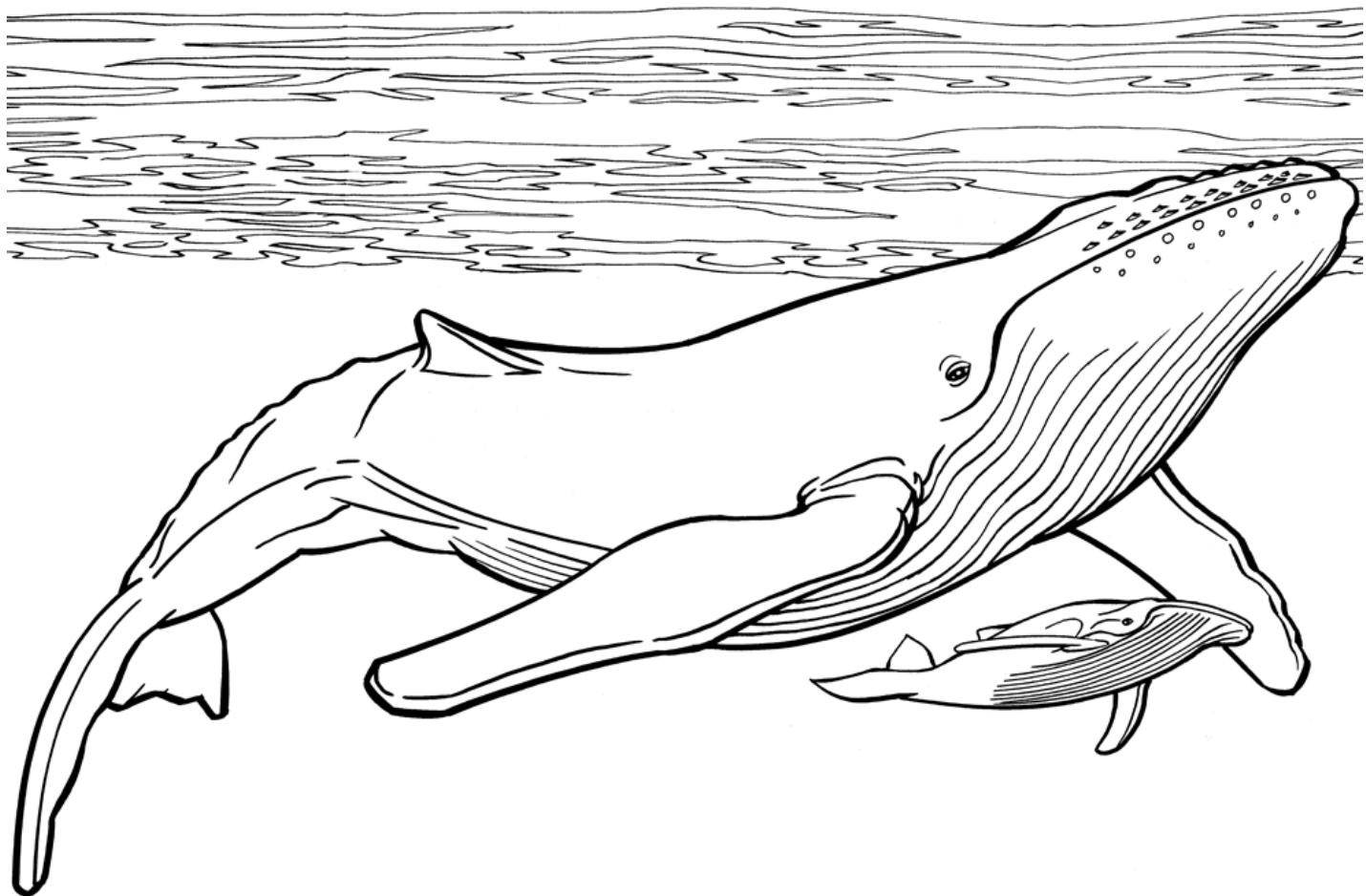
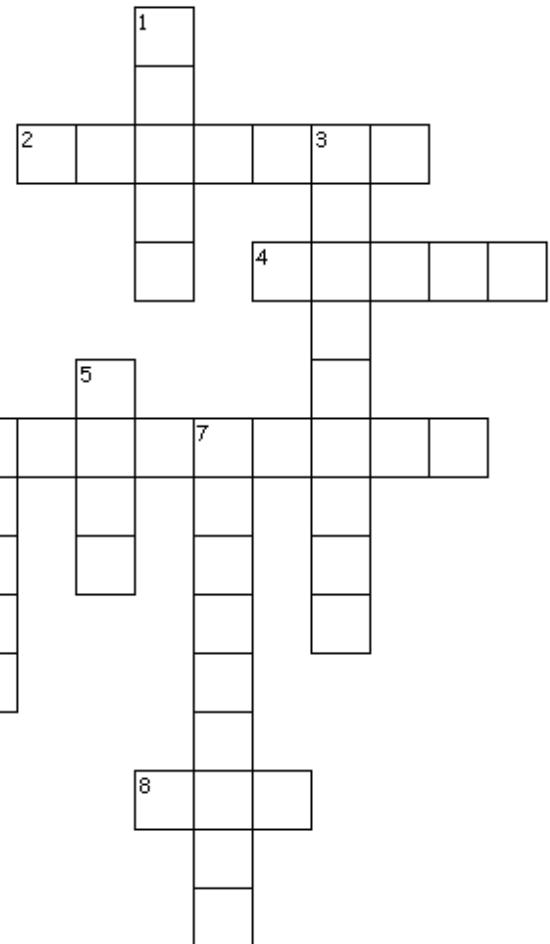


Across

2. An instrument from Africa, sometimes called a "Thumb Piano"
4. Summer tent
6. A traditional Inuit art style done on ivory
8. A family of whales traveling together

Down

1. Winter shelter for the Inuit
3. The largest animal on Earth
5. An Inuit instrument played by Sedna's father.
7. Scientist who discovered Sedna, the Planet



# Enjoy Sedna?

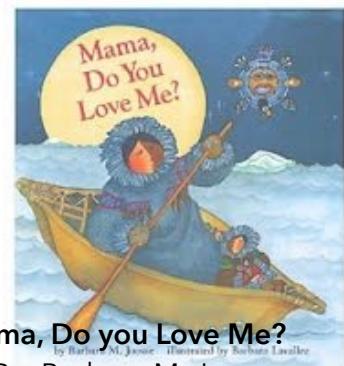
## Check out these other books about Inuit culture!



**The Girl Who Dreamed Only in Geese: And Other Tales of the Far North**

By: Howard Norman

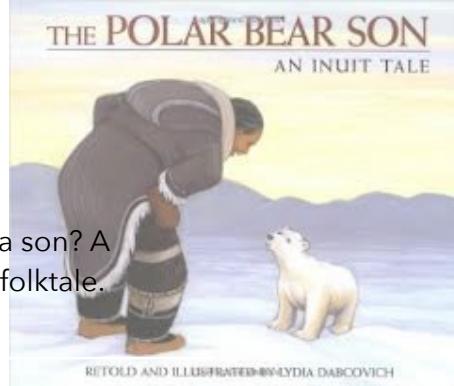
A retelling of Inuit tales beautifully illustrated in traditional styles for all ages.



**Mama, Do you Love Me?**

by Barbara M. Joosse Illustrated by Barbara Lavallee

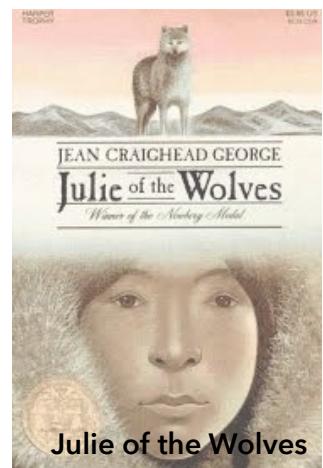
By: Barbara M. Joosse  
A mother reassuring proves that a parents love is unconditional.  
Perfect for toddlers.



**The Polar Bear Son**

By: Lydia Dabcovich

A woman with a polar bear for a son? A retelling of the traditional Inuit folktale.  
Kindergarten-Grade 2



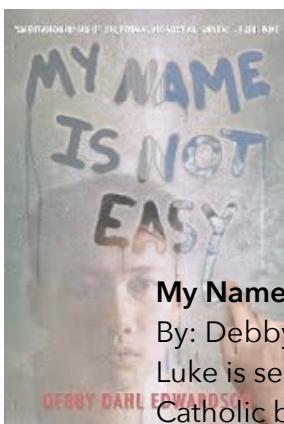
**Julie of the Wolves**

By: Jean Craighead George

Miyax runs away from her village and is adopted by a wolf pack. She must choose between the way of her people, or the way of the wolves.

Winner of a Newberry Medal.

Ages 10+



**My Name is Not Easy**

By: Debby Dahl Edwardson

Luke is sent away from his Arctic village to a Catholic boarding school where speaking your native language is forbidden. A story about tolerance. A National Book Award finalist.

Ages 12+