

Section 2

Chapter 7 - Videogames as educational tools

Exemplary case 4

Title: **Never Alone: Ki Edition**

Description:

[Never Alone: Ki Edition](#) is an atmospheric adventure game developed in collaboration with Alaska Native people, Iñupiat elders and storytellers. The narrative is drawn from a traditional story that has been shared across the generations. It is about a girl, Nuna and her companion, Fox, an arctic fox, during their epic journey to find the source of an eternal blizzard that threatens Nuna's village. Players guide both characters using single-player mode or playing cooperatively with another person through frozen tundra, across treacherous ice floes, through underwater ice caverns to solve puzzles and face numerous enemies. During the game players explore awe-inspiring environments, perform heroic deeds and meet legendary characters from Iñupiaq stories — all narrated by a master storyteller in the spoken Iñupiaq language.

Never Alone game themes are derived from Iñupiaq and Alaskan native cultures and promote storytelling, togetherness, interconnectedness, love, respect for all things and eventually enhance Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills. The game world is charming and engaging, well tied to the themes and narrative.

Teachers can introduce this game as a book, asking students to report the cultural elements they find in the game. Students can also reflect on their puzzle-solving teamwork and write journals describing particular puzzles, challenges and solutions. Students might also be interested to learn about how *Never Alone* was made in cooperation with Alaskan natives. A discussion on a topic like this should be facilitated by the teacher, emphasizing why this approach is important and exploring how the game incorporated Iñupiaq knowledge and traditions in both the narrative and



gameplay. Ultimately, teachers could ask students to look into their own cultural backgrounds and have them imagine what a video game that represented their own cultures would be like.

Never Alone game is purchasable and available as a digital download for iPhone/iPad, Android, Windows, Mac, Linux and major gaming consoles.

