

# The Great Adventure

In *The Great Adventure*, filmmaker Jean Lemire and his crew undertake a five-month, 21 000-kilometre voyage to record the impact of global warming on the Arctic. We watch as the crew navigate a three-masted sailing ship through the legendary Northwest Passage – a treacherous, ice-choked route that has captured the imaginations of great explorers for centuries.

This compelling scientific and personal adventure is set against the backdrop of breathtaking northern scenery. Survival is a daily struggle in the Far North, and the *Sedna IV's* crew face unusually cold weather that makes navigation exceptionally perilous.

*The Great Adventure* unveils the beauty of this region and makes us keenly aware that climate change is seriously jeopardizing a fragile ecosystem.

*Arctic Mission* is a collection of five documentary films that explore the impact of global warming on Canada's North.



Directed and written by  
**Jean Lemire and Thierry Piantanida**  
Cinematography **Martin Leclerc**  
Underwater cinematography **Mario Cyr**  
Location sound **Hubert Macé de Gastines**  
Éditeur **Frédéric Lossignol, Alain Belhumeur**  
Sound editing **Marie-Claude Gagné**  
Original music **Hervé Postic**

Narrated by **David Suzuki, Jean Lemire**  
Produced by **Glacialis Productions (Jean Lemire)**  
In co-production with the **National Film Board of Canada (Éric Michel, Colette Loumède and Sally Bochner)** and **Gedeon Programmes (Stéphane Millière)**

With the participation of **Canadian Television Fund**, created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Cable Industry, **CTF: Licence Fee Program**, **Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program**, **Québec: Film and Television Tax Credit – Gestion SODEC**, **Canada: Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit program**, **SODEC: Société de développement des entreprises culturelles – Québec**, **Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec**

With the collaboration of **Télé-Québec, CBC Television – Nature of Things, France 5, France 2, Centre national de la cinématographie Canada-France, Ministère délégué à la recherche et aux nouvelles technologies**

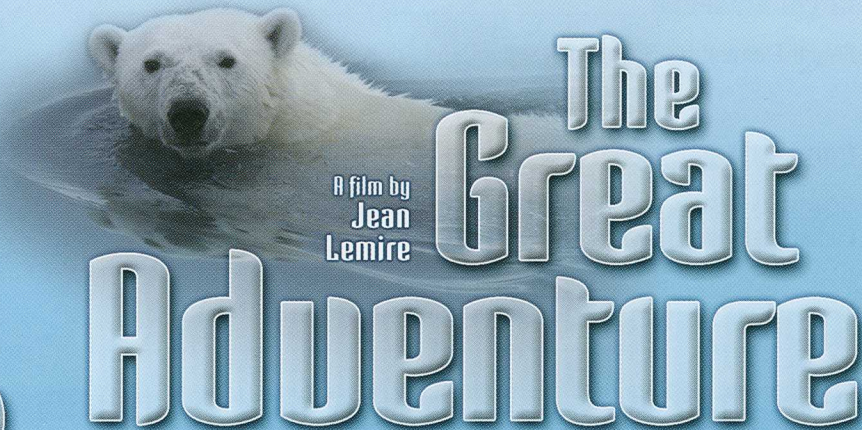
A **Canada-France** co-production  
**Shot in high-definition**

Photographs **Jean Lemire, Stanislas Deville**  
Graphics **Mardigrave Inc.**

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ARCTIC  
MISSION

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A film by  
**Jean Lemire**



Proud partners in promoting  
the *Arctic Mission* collection:

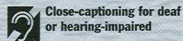
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52 minutes

VHS  
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# Study Guide

## Target Audience

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Senior Elementary, Secondary School and Adult Education

## Connections

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Geography, Human and Physical Systems, Global Issues, Local Environments, Climate Change, History, Explorers, Technology

## Objective

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To gather and organize data into meaningful information.

## Duration

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3 hours, including screening time (50 minutes).

## PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

In pairs, learners will chart SEDNA's voyage through the Northwest Passage.

Each team will require a map of North America that they can write on.

1. Ask teams what they know about the 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century explorers who led expeditions to the North. What problems did these earlier adventurers encounter? Describe the navigational instruments of the time. Compare with the equipment that modern ships now carry.
2. Read aloud the synopsis of *The Great Adventure* (on the flip side of this videojacket).

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3. Describe the following tasks for teams of two:

- a) Write down the major stages in the expedition as the film follows the movements of SEDNA and crew. Organize the information into categories such as: *Stage of voyage / Place of stopover / Length of stay / Cause of the interruption / Crew's concerns & solutions / Flora and fauna observed*
- b) Mark SEDNA's route on the map, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

## POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

1. Allow a few minutes for general discussion.
2. Role Play: Ask the teams to designate an ice pilot and a captain who, together, will talk about their experience sailing in the icy waters of the Arctic. Suggest that they use maps when making their presentation.
3. With the entire class, review the high points of the film. Discuss choices that viewers would have made if they had been crew members. Encourage discussion about the mission and the concerns expressed by the explorers regarding the effects of climate change on the Arctic. Ask students to comment on what they learned from the itinerary section of the Arctic Mission Web site.
4. Individuals may want to do a research project on an Arctic explorer. Suggested procedure: Begin with an expedition route, as above, then enrich the content of the project by adding pictures, photographs and geographic and historical maps.