

just the facts

Muin

Black Bear *Ursus americanus*



Ekinu'tmasimk

- Muin na mawi-ape'jit aqq maw-pikwelk te'sijik milamuksultijik muink Kanata. Nekmowk na'msit muink eymu'tijik No'pa Sko'sia.
- Muink wikultijik amasek ta'n mu mimajuinu'k eymu'ti'k aqq ta'n pikwelk mijipjewe aqq ta'n etl-sankewewo'ttijik.
- Mi'kmaq kepmite'lma'tijik Muink. Mimey weja'tuj ewe'wmumk wjit npisun aqq mita 90-130 kg. teliksukulk, wel-tepiaq wius weja'tuj wtatalultinew pikwelkik wenik.
- Milamu'k wtankuoweymuow. Eykik suel wapo'ttijik kiswa tupkwanamuksijik, katu suel msit maqtewo'ttijik.
- Muink natawi'ko'ttijik aqq natawi-alkusuwutijik aqq kisi-ketkwi'k 56 km/h. Kesoqet na Muin.
- Ta'n tujiw Muin we'jitoq minijkl, na pemkopa'sit aqq nikanukewe'l wkwatl ewe'wkl mewisit.
- Unama'kikewaqq Muink eymu'tijik Wja'tujk aqq Unama'kik Espaqmikek ta'n pikwelkl minijkl nikutikl.
- Nape'wk atkilultijik jel mu nuse'skuk. Muink kesatmi'tijik newtuko'tti'tij kiswa pasik ktikik Muink tekweywa'tij.
- Muink malqutmi'tijl minijkl, wen'ju'su'nl, msiku, wiskasojji'jk, nipi'jk, nme'jk, apukji'jk, jipji'jk, wa'wl, sqoljik aqq juujik. Ne'tipsetamultijik, pesetu'tij 1.5 km. etek suklikaq wius kiswa tewekemk koqoey



Kikmanaq telua'tijik

Nipk mu pikwelalaluk Muin, katu toqa'q ika'q pikwelalaluk ilajuktik tlinpatew kesik. Muin na jipasisit aqq ala'sit tepkik. Wjit ta'n telkilk wa'qij nutut ala'sit.

Muin na mime'k waisis. Mu ewe'wasinuk wtankuoweym wjit tapsun. Wtankuoweym ewe'wmumk wjit naqsunk.

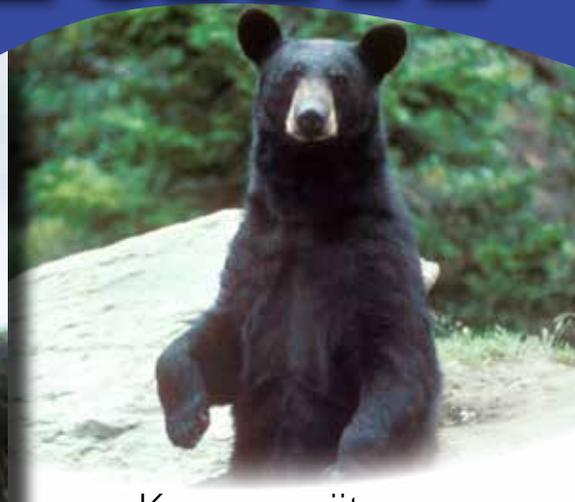
Ta'n tujiw Muin ne'po'jek te'pi'timkip wius.

“Lukwaqna'lipnik Muink ke'sk i'loqte'knikalkek amaljikwejk. Amaljikwejk aqq Muin na akutijik.

Tluek na'tamiaw 15-20 tesipunqekl teli-pkitawsit Muin.

Mi'kmaq, Unama'ki wo'kmawal Muinal. Tleyawit Unama'kik. Muin wtuisunm wejiaq klusuaqn Muinaqanek – wjit ta'n tett pikwelkl minijkl.”

–Ernest Johnson



Koqoey wjit weji-ksalu'kik

Mi'kmaw netuklit ta'n tujiw ketanteket, mu skimtuk amaliktantekek. Muink na keknuo'ttijik aqq ta'n tujiw ketanujik wjit wius aqq npisun, kepmite'tasijik.

Ktu'-ktanaj Muin amujpa kejitu'n ta'n tel-lukwen mita Muin na melkiknat. Mi'kmaq mekite'lma'tipnik wenik nata' ktana'tijik Muink. Muin wipitl aqq wqusi'k iknmupnik ktantekewinu kinua'teken ne'pa'snl Muinl wjit wikmaq. Naskitaq Muinl wqusi'l wji'taqnuq kinua'teken natawi-ktanajik Muink. Ne'wt mikwaptasik naskuatl Muinl wqusi'l wji'taqnk na teluemk “Nuji-kina'muet wjit Muink” aqq elita'sualut kina'muan pilue'k ta'n koqoey kejitoq.

Mi'kmaq ekinu'tmua'tiji wunijanua kepmite'lmanew waisisk mita weja'tua'tij mijipjewe wji-mimajultinew, aqq koqoey ta'n nuta'tij. Kepmite'taqn wejiaq nestmumk tel-keknu'e'k weli-anko'tasikt aqq wel-maliaptasikt Muin etl-qatq.

Nuse'skw mu ketanuksik ta'n tujiw nepat kesik, pasik nape'wk ketanujik, kulaman siaw-pikweltaq Muink. Amujpa menaqaj maliamuksijik Muink kulaman ma' awsamelu'k aqq ne'kaw pikwelkitew wlu'ow. Pikwelkik aqq tajiko'ttijik Muink Unama'ki. Mna'q eyktnuk mu i'mu'tinew Muink.

Ktu' kinu'tmasin me' lie:

just the facts

Muin

Black Bear *Ursus americanus*



ALL The Facts

- Muin are the smallest and most common Bear in Canada. They are the only Bear in Nova Scotia.
- Bears usually live far away from people in an area where there are not too many disturbances and food is plentiful.
- Muin are very special to the Mi'kmaq. Their oil is used for medicine and, weighing 90-136 kg, they give plenty of meat to families.
- Their fur colour varies from almost white to shades of brown, but their coats are usually black.
- Muin are good swimmers and climbers, and can sprint short distances at speeds up to 56 km/h. They have a strong, wet odour.
- When Bears come across an area with berries, they will sit down and eat with their paws.
- Unama'ki Muin are mostly found in Cheticamp and the Cape Breton Highlands where berries are plentiful.
- Male Bears are much bigger than female bears. Bears are very solitary animals and they stick with their kind.
- Muin eat berries, apples, grass, buds, leaves, fish, mice, birds, eggs, frogs, and insects. The smell of decaying meat or garbage can be picked up by their sensitive noses from 1.5 km away.



What Our People SAY

Muin don't need to eat much in the summer but they eat a lot in the fall to prepare for winter hibernation. Bears are very shy and they usually travel around at night. For their size, they are very quiet.

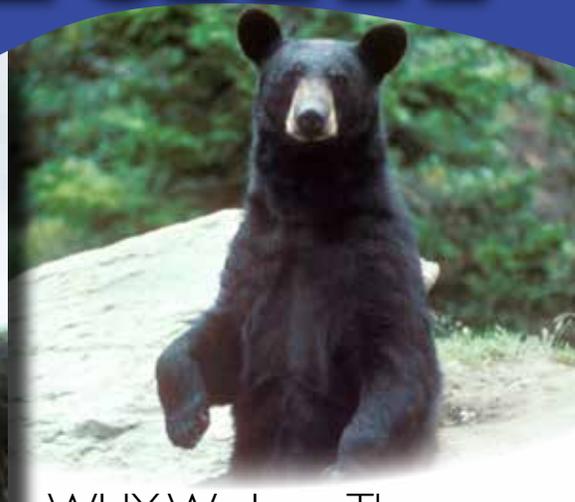
Muin is a very greasy animal: their fur is not used for clothing, hides are used for rugs.

When a Muin was harvested it was shared with others who also enjoyed its meat.

"I've had problems with bear while I was trapping raccoon. A raccoon is the bear's cousin.

Around here I'd say their lifespan is 15-20 years.

Bear has been a family member with the Mi'kmaq people here in Unama'ki. It's native to Cape Breton. The Bear's name comes from a word that describes where there are berries, Muinaqanek (a place where berries are plentiful)." –Ernest Johnson



WHY We Love Them

Mi'kmaq hunt to harvest and do not hunt just to kill. Muin are special and when harvested for meat and medicine, they are thought of as sacred.

To hunt Muin you have to be highly trained because of the Bear's strength. Mi'kmaq treasured a person who had the ability to harvest it. Muin's teeth and claws were given to hunters to show that they harvested a Bear for their people. They would wear the claw as a pendant to show that they were involved in a difficult, successful hunt. Once seen wearing that pendant, the hunters were considered a "Teacher of the Bears" who would pass on that knowledge.

Mi'kmaq people teach children to respect all the animals around them because they feed and sustain us, providing all the necessities of life. The respect comes from understanding the importance of conservation and management of the Bears' habitat.

Female Bear are never harvested during hibernation, only males, allowing the population to continue to grow. Making sure Muin survives is a form of management so they don't over-populate and their food stays plentiful. We have a good, healthy Bear population in Unama'ki. There was never a time when there were no Muin.

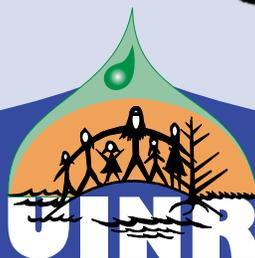
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UNAMA'KI

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