

# just the facts Apistane'wj

American Marten Martes americana



Ekinu'tmasimk

- Wikultijik nipuktuk msit tami Kanata Apistane'wjik na akuma'tijik skusk.
- Pikwelkipnik Mi'kma'ki mi'soqo 1900's ek, suel ketmaqsenepnik tela'lukwi'tij loqte'knikemk aqq pilua'sikl teli-punqekl. Kiskuk awije'jijik, pasik etuk 100-200 weskwieejik Unama'kik.
- UINR aqq Parks Canada aqq Natural Resources No'pa Sko'sia mawi-apoqnmatulipnik jukwa'lanew se'kk weja'lujik Apistane'wjik kulaman me' ajeltaq.
- Apistane'wjik wikulti'tij stoqnaqamik, eltu'ti'l wikuall aqq etli-ktantaqatijik kikjuk kmu'jk nepu'tijik kisna kewia'tijik.
- Apistane'wjik mu newte' telamuksultikik, milamuksultijik -wataptamuksultijik kisna tupkwananuksijik toqo wapamu'k wsitun aqq wpisewikn.
- Apistane'wjik alta'jik tepkik aqq ne'to'l tijik, natawi'ko'l tijik aqq mu jipasulti'k.
- Wunianuaq atel weskwijinuit mu wusapunik, mu nemitekek aqq elita'sualatl wkwijl nusseskwalkn. Apistane'wj'i'jk puktaqi-ankweyakwi'tijik wkwijuaq.
- Apistane'wj waqasit aqq pekiji-ketanteket.
- Apistane'wj newtukwe'k aqq wikit kmu'j-iktuk, wji'kij-iktuk kisna tmoqta'w-iktuk. - Apistane'wj malqumajik apukji'jk, atu'tuejk, apli'kmujk, jujijk, jipi'jk aqq minjkl.



Kikmanaq telua'tijik

Ki's sa'q Klu'skap welteskuasnl kisikui'skwl. Kisikui'skw telimatl, "Ni'n na kukumij." Klu'skap pipanimatl ta'n wejeliq. Nukumi' telimasnl wettaqne'wasit kun'tal, kekpewisk aqq Na'ku'set. Ne'wt teki-eksitpu'k eteksipl kun'tew-iktuk kekpewisk. Mi'soqo mia'w-la'kwek eptek kun'tew. Na'ku'set teliknat jel kun'tew telika'siksip nkutey kisikui'skw. Nukumi' nestue'kis aqq pikwelk kejitoq. Telimasnl Klu'skapal msntew nsituo'qn jiksituaj aqq kepmite'lmaj.

Klu'skap wikumasnl Apistane'wj ali'kwe'litl sipuk. Apistane'wj na'taqma'sis na Klu'skap pipanimasnl iknmuwan wmmajuaqnm kulaman nekm aqq Nukumi' wji-mimajitaq. Apistane'wj keta'muasn. Na Nukumi wesua'lasnl Apistane'wj aqq temaqtuataq wji'taqnaq tuijw elisma'latl maqamikew-iktuk. Na tuijw mawi-amskwes Klu'skap pipanimasnl Kisul'kl apajimimajua'lan Apistane'wj mita mu ketu' kwaya'laqik waisisk. Apistane'wj apaja'sis sipuk aqq ta'n weji-wunaqa'sit piluey apistane'wj elisink. Weja'tekemkek Klu'skap aqq Apistane'wj witaptisnik aqq teliksua'ltisnik nkutey wijkiti'tij. Wjit ta'n Apistane'wj kis-tla'teket, weja'tekemkek Klu'skap teli-ksualasnik msit waisisk nkutey wijkmaj.



Koqoey wjit  
weji-ksalu'kik

Awisiw Apistane'wj nemiuut, pasik nemitu'k al-jilaptoq wastew-iktuk. Ula tupkwanamuksit wsukni-it waisis suel teli-ankamkusit nkutey tiake'wj aqq mia'wj toqwa'luj aqq kesikanus wjit ankuoweym. Mita tetuji-klu'k ankuoweym suel ketmaqsenusnik.

Mu nepaq kesik Apistane'wj. Kesik, we'kaw ali-ktanteket. Kesik mulqwet wastew-iktuk ketanajik apukji'jk.

Elmiaq ala'sin kisoqe'k toqo nmi'j newte'jit mukk jipalaw ajino'lin aqq ma' ne'pa'qik kisna malqumajik ktue'mk!

Elam nmitu'n Apistane'wj pemaptoq nmittesk maqsitat na kulaman wskittuk pmietew wastew-iktuk.

Ktu' kinu'tmasin me' lie:



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American Marten *Martes americana*



## ALL The Facts

- Found in forests across Canada, Apistane'wj are members of the weasel family.
- They were native to Nova Scotia before trapping and habitat changes reduced their numbers in the early 1900s. Today they are endangered with only 100-200 left in Unama'ki.
- For several years, UINR assisted Parks Canada and Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, introducing new animals to the Highlands to help increase the population.
- They usually live in mature, softwood forests with dead and downed trees that they use for homes and hunting.
- Martens vary in colour from yellowish to dark brown and have a cream-colored throat and chest.
- Apistane'wj are most active at night and are very curious, excellent swimmers, and fearless.
- Babies are born naked, blind, and helpless dependent on mother's milk during their first couple of months. Mothers take care of their babies on their own.
- Apistane'wj are very agile and spend a lot of time hunting.
- Martens live alone and have dens in logs, stumps, or trees. Apistane'wj eat mice, squirrels, snowshoe hares, insects, fruit, and birds.



## What Our People SAY

One day Kluskap met a very old woman, Nukumi, who said "I am your grandmother." Kluskap asked how she arrived in the Mi'kmaq world. Nukumi said that she owed her existence to the rock, the dew, and Naku'set, the Sun. One chilly morning a rock became covered with dew. By midday, the rock got warm and then hot. With the power of Naku'set, the rock was given a body of an old woman. Nukumi was very wise and knowledgeable. She told Kluskap that he would gain spiritual strength by listening to and respecting her.

Kluskap called Apistane'wj who was swimming in the river. The Marten came ashore and Kluskap asked him to give up his life so that he and his grandmother could live. Apistane'wj agreed. Nukumi then took Apistane'wj and quickly snapped his neck and placed him on the ground. For the first time Kluskap asked Creator to use His power to give life back to Apistane'wj because he didn't want to upset the animals. Apistane'wj went back to the river and in his place lay another Marten. Kluskap and Apistane'wj became friends and brothers forever. Because of Apistane'wj's sacrifice, Kluskap called all the animals his brothers and sisters from that point on.



## WHY We Love Them

Apistane'wj is rarely seen, except maybe its paw prints in the snow. This brown, bushy-tailed animal looks like a cross between a mink and a house cat, and was prized for its luxurious fur. Because of its beautiful coat, it was almost trapped to extinction.

American Martens don't hibernate. Instead, they patrol their territory looking for food. Tunneling under the snow to catch mice is one of the main ways they get food through the winter.

If you are ever lucky enough to see one when you are out walking in the woods, don't worry about it attacking you, killing any livestock, or eating your pets!

If you ever have the chance to track a Marten in the snow, you will see that thanks to its big paws, its weight is evenly distributed so Apistane'wj can run on top of the snow.

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