

# Mati ~ Mountain Goat

Horns grow continuously and are never shed.

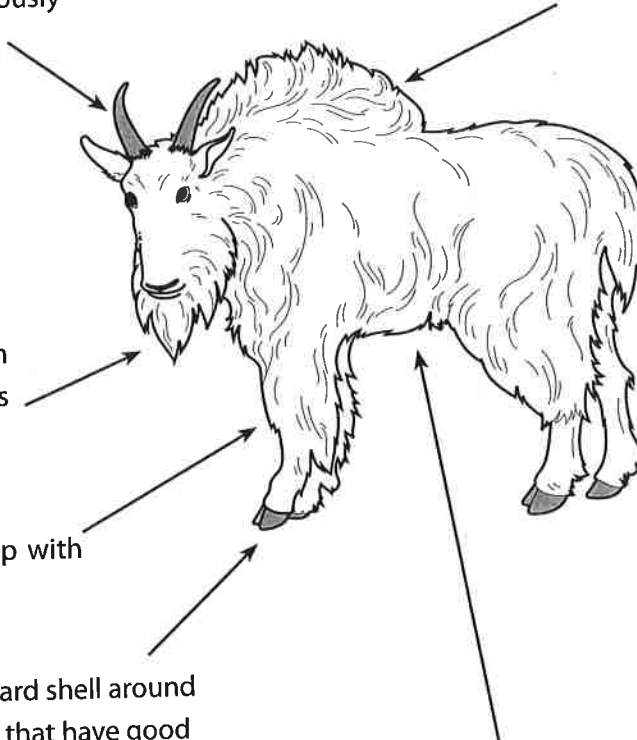
Large, powerful shoulders help them climb and paw at the ground for food.

"Beards" grow on males and females as they grow older.

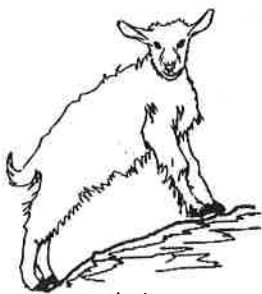
Short sturdy legs help with agility and balance.

Hooves have a hard shell around soft, rough pads that have good friction on rocks.

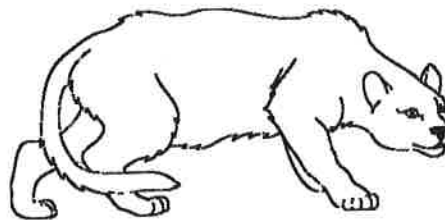
Strong back legs help them climb up steep cliffs.



They have two types of fur. The fur close to their bodies is very soft wool. Long thick hairs, called guard hairs, cover the woolly fur in the winter to protect them from the weather. In the spring they shed their winter coats. The heavy fur comes off in chunks.



'waakyi  
mountain goat kid



The only real predators mountain goats have are mountain lions and lynx. Their biggest danger is falling.

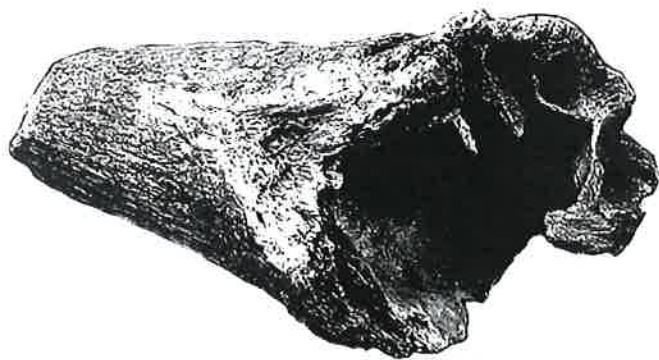
# How First Nations People Use Mountain Goats

Mountain Goat was a valuable resource in the past, and is still sometimes hunted today. Almost all parts of the animal were used. The meat and fat was a change from salmon and deer. Bones and horn were used for tools and household objects. Intestines could be dried and made into pouches.

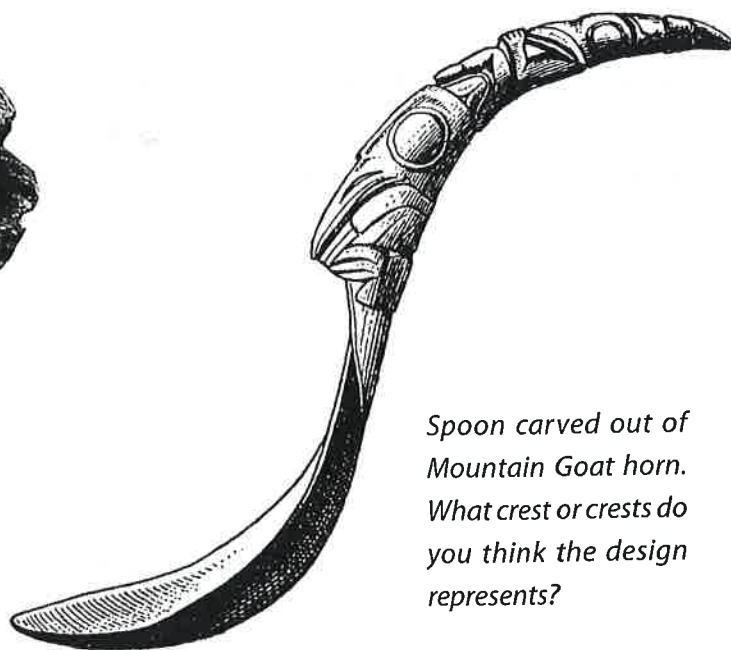
The soft wool is spun into threads which are woven into the *gwishalayt*, also known as Dancing Blanket or Chilkat blanket. This unique and very valuable robe was part of a Chief's regalia.



*Gwishalayt (Dancing Blanket or Chilkat Blanket) woven from Mountain Goat wool.*



*This piece of Mountain Goat bone was uncovered at the Lachane site in Prince Rupert harbour, now the site of Fairview Terminal. It dates to about 2000 years ago.*



*Spoon carved out of Mountain Goat horn. What crest or crests do you think the design represents?*