

AREA: Winter Activities

TOPIC: Trapping

CONCEPTS

1. Different species of animals were/are trapped during the months of November to March:

- a) mink *lis'yaan*
- b) marten *yeni*
- c) otter *'watsa*
- d) fox *nagats'ee*
- e) muskrat *nah'eela*

2. These animals were/are trapped on traplines up the Skeena, Nass and Ecstall Rivers and on Dundas Island.

3. A trapline is a designated area where people in a family can trap. Trapping was/is a family activity.

4. Traplines must be registered with the Provincial Government. Provincial trapping regulations apply to Indian people.

5. Different kinds of traps were/are used for different species:

- a) the conventional leghold trap would cause the animal extreme pain; often the animal would chew its leg off from the pain. It is now illegal to use this trap for most species.

INTENDED LEARNINGS

Students will be able to:

1.1 List the different species of animals trapped during the winter months.

2.1 List the four areas where people from Port Simpson trap.

2.2 On a map of the Port Simpson area, mark the areas where people from Port Simpson trap.

3.1 Define a trapline.

3.2 State who went/goes trapping.

4.1 State three provincial trapping regulations that apply to Indian people.

5.1 Describe the leghold trap, stating the restrictions on its use.

5.2 Describe the snare trap.

5.3 Explain how the deadfall works.

5.4 Explain where deadfall traps for mink, marten and beaver would be located.

b) the deadfall trap was used for small fur-bearing animals such as mink and marten.

c) The deadfall trap would be located in certain places for certain animals.

- i) mink - deadfalls would be placed near the mouth of a river, along the banks of a river or along the shore of Work Channel.
- ii) marten - deadfalls would be in the bush along marten tracks.
- iii) beaver- deadfalls would be placed near beaver ponds.

d) the snare trap is more humane as it doesn't cause pain to the animal but immobilizes it until the trapper kills it.

6. The trapper is supposed to check on his trapline quite often to put the animals out of their misery.

a) some trappers would grab the mink by the heart and squeeze the heart until the animal died; they had to be careful not to damage the coat.

7.

a) Before contact the Tsimshians trapped for the furs they needed as clothing, head-dresses, blankets and for trading with other Indian groups.

b) After contact, the Tsimshians trapped fur-bearing animals for the following reasons:

- i) the Tsimshians hunted sea otter for their skins and traded them with the European and American trading ships for commercial trade items.



- 6.1 State the reason why a trapper should check his trapline frequently.
- 6.2 Describe one method of killing a mink without damaging the coat.

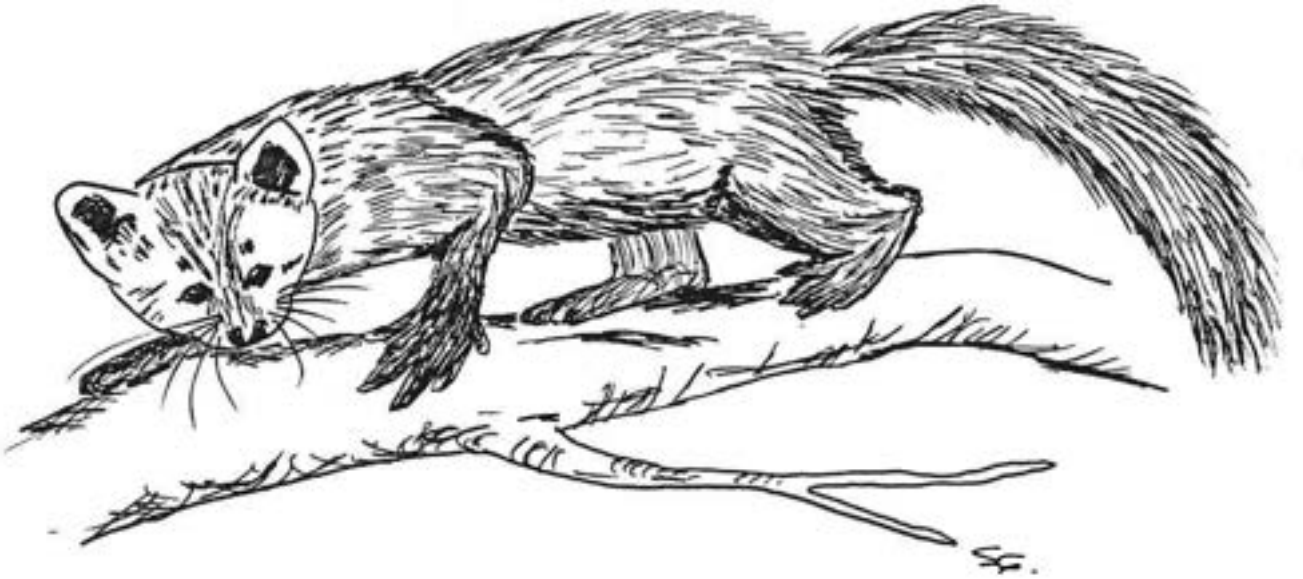
- 7.1 Compare the reasons the Tsimshians trapped before and after contact.
- 7.2 Role-play a scene where a Tsimshian Indian is trading his furs with a Hudson Bay Company trader.
- 7.3 Write a story about a boy who accompanies his uncle out to the family's trapline.

- ii) the Tsimshians trapped for different furs in order to trade for commercial trade items at the Hudsons Bay Company at Fort (Port) Simpson.
- iii) later they sold their furs for cash to the Hudson Bay Company at Fort (Port) Simpson.
- iv) after the Hudson Bay Company left Port Simpson the trappers sold their furs to fur buyers in Prince Rupert and, more recently, in Terrace.

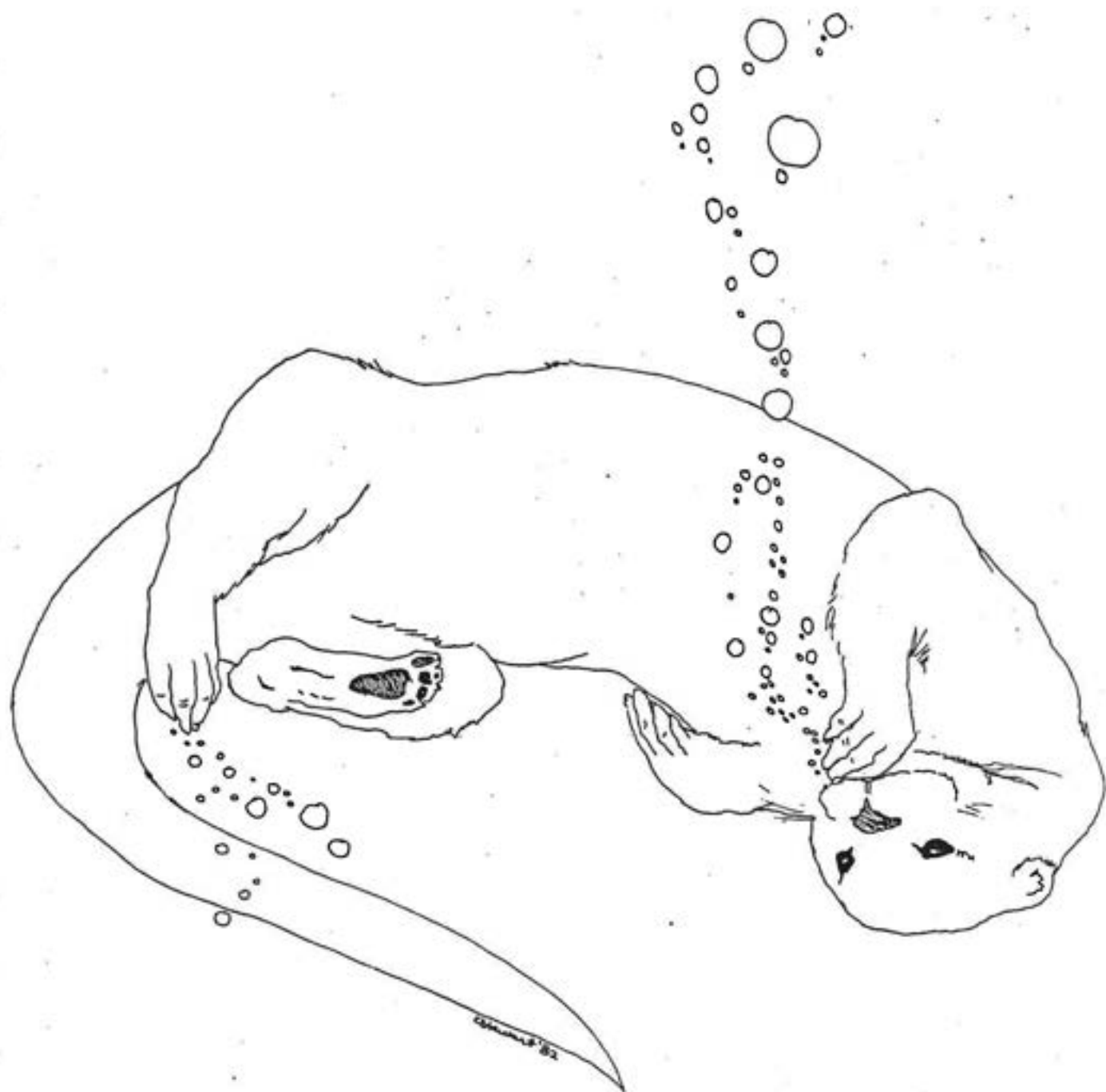


56.

MINK - lis'yaan



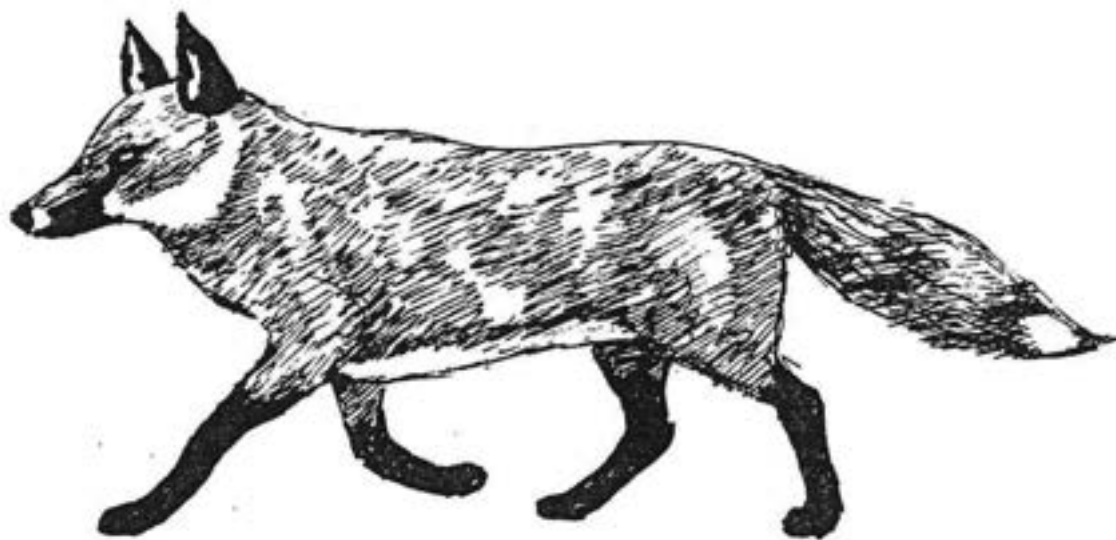
MARTIN - yeni



'watsa

- LAND OTTER

nagats'ee - FOX





MUSKRAT - nak'eela

DEADFALL TRAP - smdzep



This deadfall trap was used for small fur-bearing animals such as mink and marten. Strong smelling red cedar or spruce branches would be used to camouflage the trap and to cover up the human scent. Broken branches would also be waved over the ground around the trap to further camouflage the scent of human beings.

The animal was attracted to the trap by the smell of the meat left as bait. When the animal tugged at the meat to remove it and bring it back to its lair, the stick that the bait was tied to would slip off the poles, causing them to fall on the animal and trap it.

SNARE TRAPS - WOOX



Snare traps were and are set along well-used animal paths. In the past stinging nettle twine was used for snares; to-day snare wire or thin nylon line is used.

In a "trip snare" one end of the wire or line is tied to a supple branch of a tree. It is important that the branch is pulled towards the ground by the snare to keep tension on the line. The other end of the wire or line is formed into a noose and set on the ground. The noose is propped open with a stick or wire and then covered with leaves. Human scent is camouflaged by brushing the ground with broken red cedar or spruce boughs.

When the animal steps into the snare it is tripped so the noose tightens around the animal's foot. As the tension on the line is released the branch snaps back into its original position and the animal is pulled into the air.