

MI'KMAW CALENDAR - MI'KMAWE'K TEPKNUSETK

- project 2005 & 2008
- educational and community outreach plus language revitalization – community-based, participatory action research re pattern



see next page for larger image of eco-calendar

In 2004, SSHRC awarded research funding to Cheryl Bartlett for a project entitled “Pattern recognition: enriching the ‘common ground’ of bringing Aboriginal and Western scientific knowledges together”. Some of the research funded by this grant enabled Mi’kmaw Elders to work with researchers to envision how best to convey that understanding that the Mikmaw language identifies nature’s calendar by naming the different moon cycles over the course of one full year according to significant, natural events in the local ecosystem.

We decided to create a poster in which a large circle would be divided into twelve pie-shaped pieces, each representing one complete moon cycle. Elders then guided the researchers as to what kind of image could be used to represent the key event in the ecosystem that gave a particular moon cycle its name. For example, the time of Sqoljuiku’s recognizes that the frogs are croaking, which roughly corresponds to the month of May in

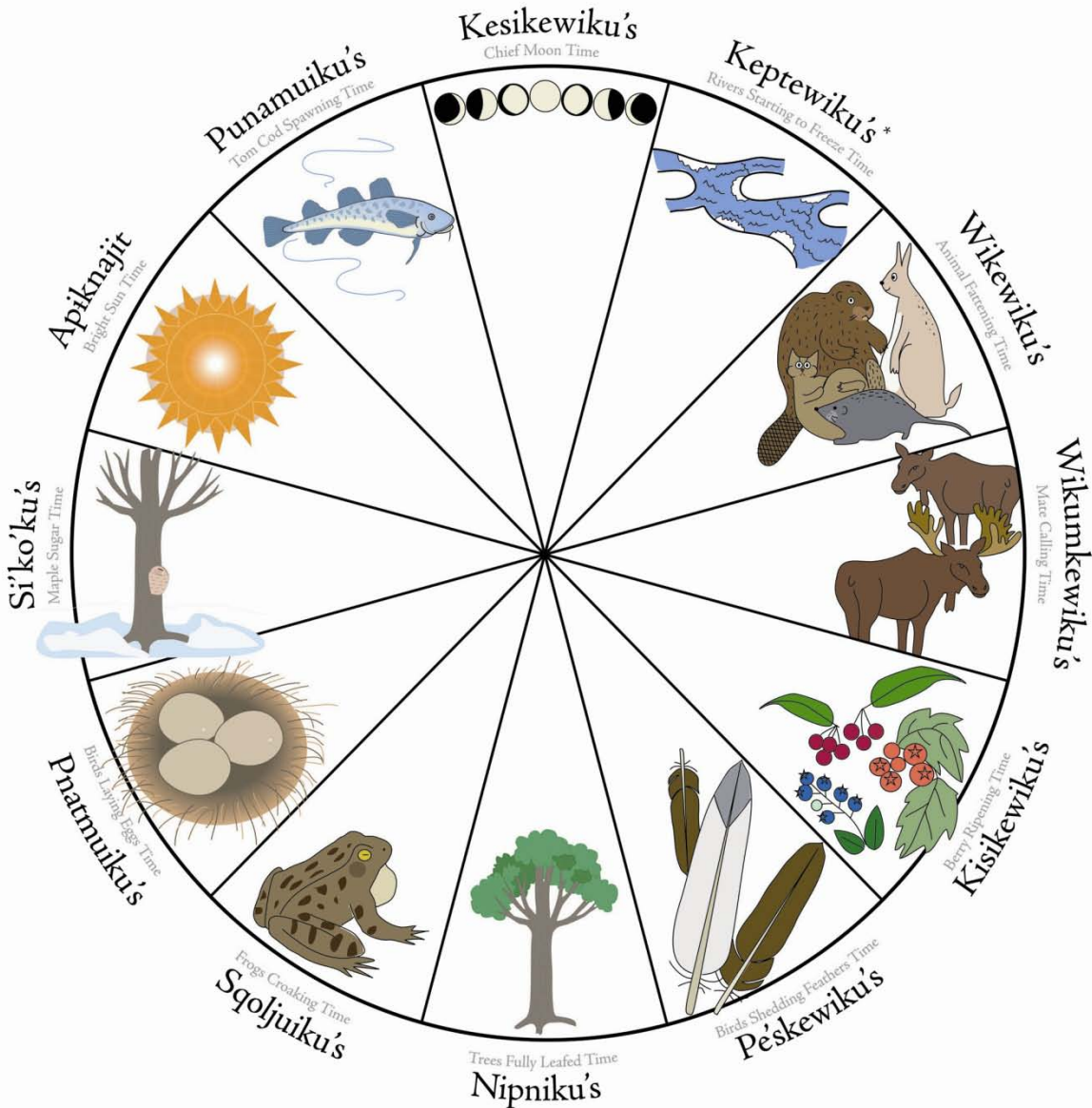
Unama’ki – Cape Breton ... and we used the image of a frog to indicate this.

In this way, the poster promotes and shares Mi’kmaw living knowledge wherein there is a strong linkage of language with nature. Other examples of how the different moon cycles are portrayed include berries for ‘berries are ripe time’, the sun for ‘bright white snow time’ and chubby animals for ‘animals are getting fat time’. Research assistant Sana Kavanagh drew original images for each moon cycle and graphic designer Kristy Read rendered them into icons. We made two versions of the poster; in the first (completed in 2005), the direction of change is clockwise and spring ('maple sugar time') is positioned on the right hand side. In the second (2008), the direction of change is counter-clockwise (= Muin / Bear-wise) and spring is positioned on the left-hand side; the 2008 version is congruent with our large, detailed eco-calendar, Pemi Punqek Mi'kma'ki (see separate description).

In the pages that follow, you can see larger images of the Mi’kmaw calendar (both the 2008 and 2005 versions), along with the Mi’kmaw names for the moon cycles and English translations, plus a visual explanation of why Muin-wise is the preferred direction for depicting seasonal change in the calendar.



Mi'kmawe'k Tepknusetk



This poster is called Mi'kmawe'k Tepknusetk which means Mi'kmaw moon months. Each moon of the year has a Mi'kmaw name. The pictures show the meaning of each Mi'kmaw name. These names tell us about the ecosystems where the Mi'kmaw live. There are 12 moons in this Moon Calendar, to go with the modern twelve months of the year. In the past, the Mi'kmaw included 13 moons in a year. Read this poster in a circle to see the cycle of the seasons. Spring is on the left, summer is on the bottom, fall is on the right, and winter is at the top.

*Alternative - Kept'ekewiku's



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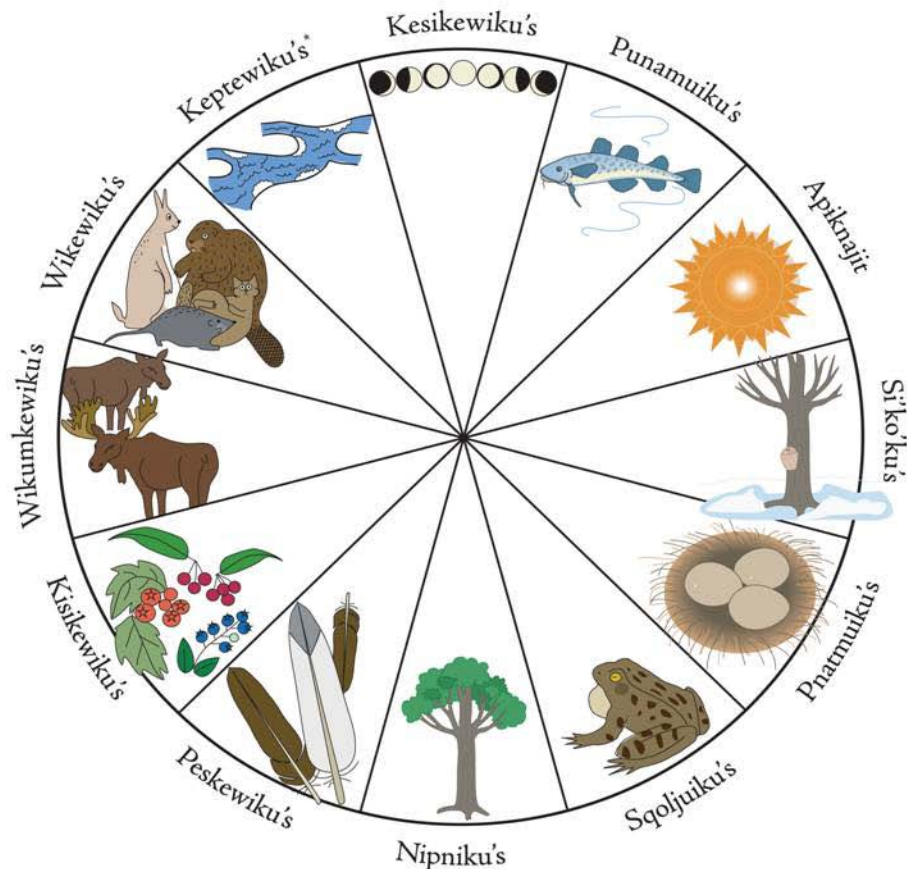


Mi'kmaw College Institute
 Mi'kmawq Enqil Kina'matno'asoom

CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY



Mi'kmawe'k Tepknusetk



*Alternative - Keptu'kewiku's



MI'KMAWE'K TEPKNUSETK

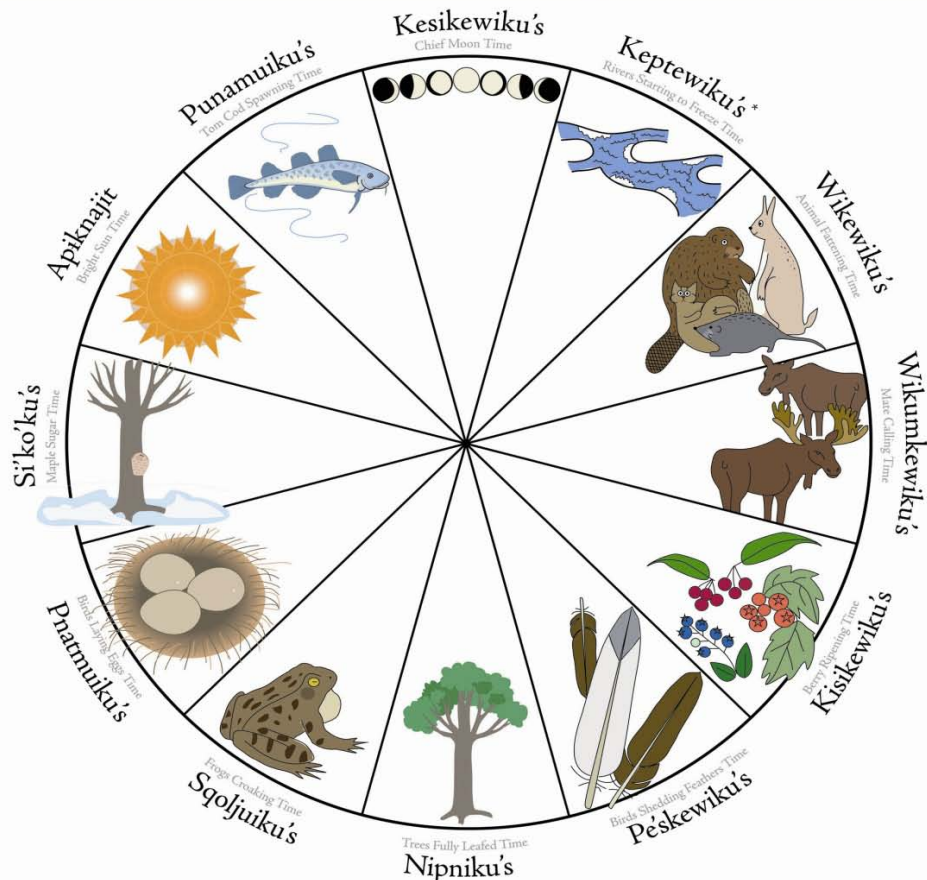
MI'KMAW CALENDAR

poster
depicting
one full year
with
12 moon cycles

clock-wise or sun-wise
(2005 version)



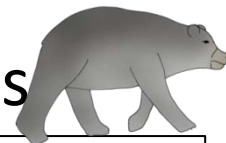
Mi'kmawe'k Tepknusetk



MI'KMAWE'K TEPKNUSETK

MI'KMAW CALENDAR

poster
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counter clock-wise or Muin/Bear-wise
(2008 version)

This poster is called Mi'kmawe'k Tepknusetk which means Mi'kmaq moon months. Each moon of the year has a Mi'kmaq name. The pictures show the meaning of each Mi'kmaq name. These names tell us about the ecosystems where the Mi'kmaq live. There are 12 moons in this Moon Calendar, to go with the modern twelve months of the year. In the past, the Mi'kmaq included 13 moons in a year. Read this poster in a circle to see the cycle of the seasons. Spring is on the left, summer is on the bottom, fall is on the right, and winter is at the top.

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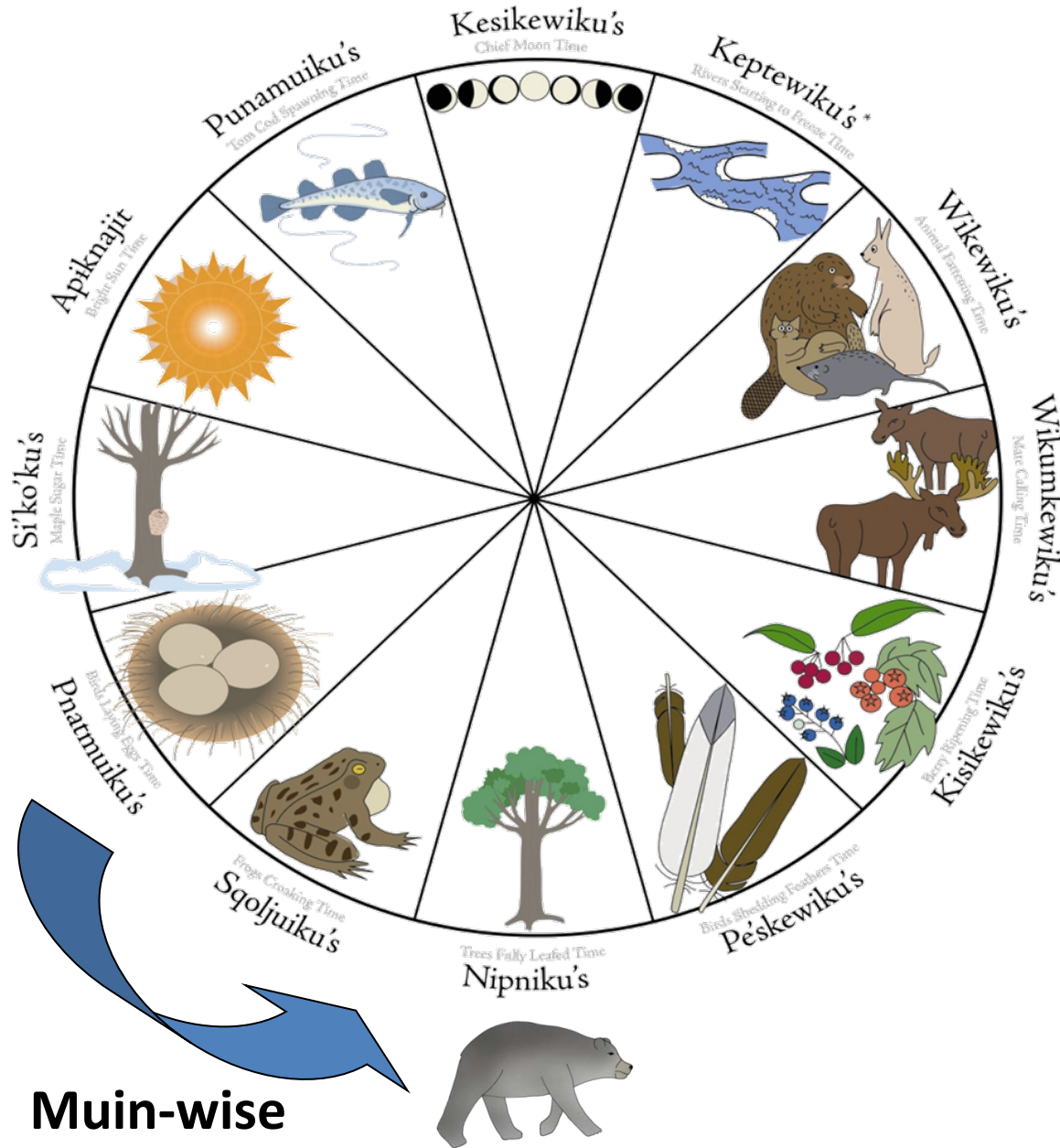


Canadian Institutes of
Health Research

KECCA

2008-09-10-11-12-13

Names of Moons (over one full year)



Si'ko'ku's

maple sugar time

Pnatmuiku's

birds laying eggs time

Sqoljuiku's

frogs croaking time

Nipniku's

trees fully leafed time

Pe'skewiku's

birds shedding feathers time

Kisikewiku's

berry ripening time

Wikumkewiku's

mate calling time

Wikewiku's

animals fattening time

Keptewiku's

rivers starting to freeze time

Kesikewiku's

chief moon time

Punamuiku's

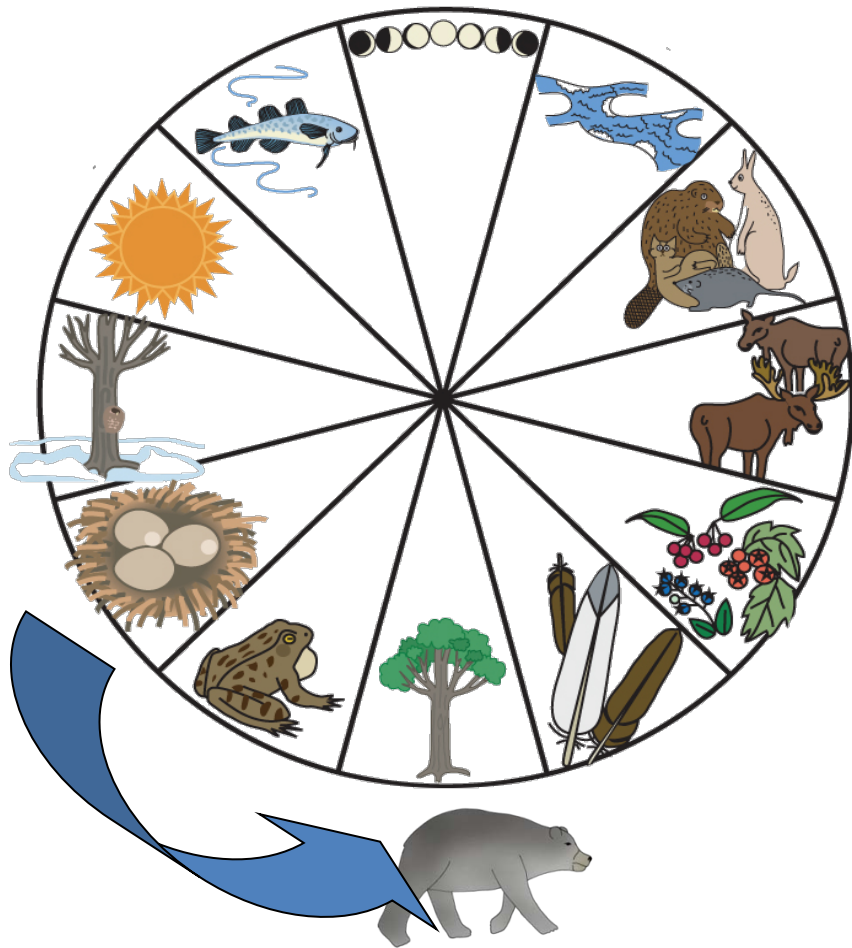
tom cod spawning time

Apiknajit

bright sun time

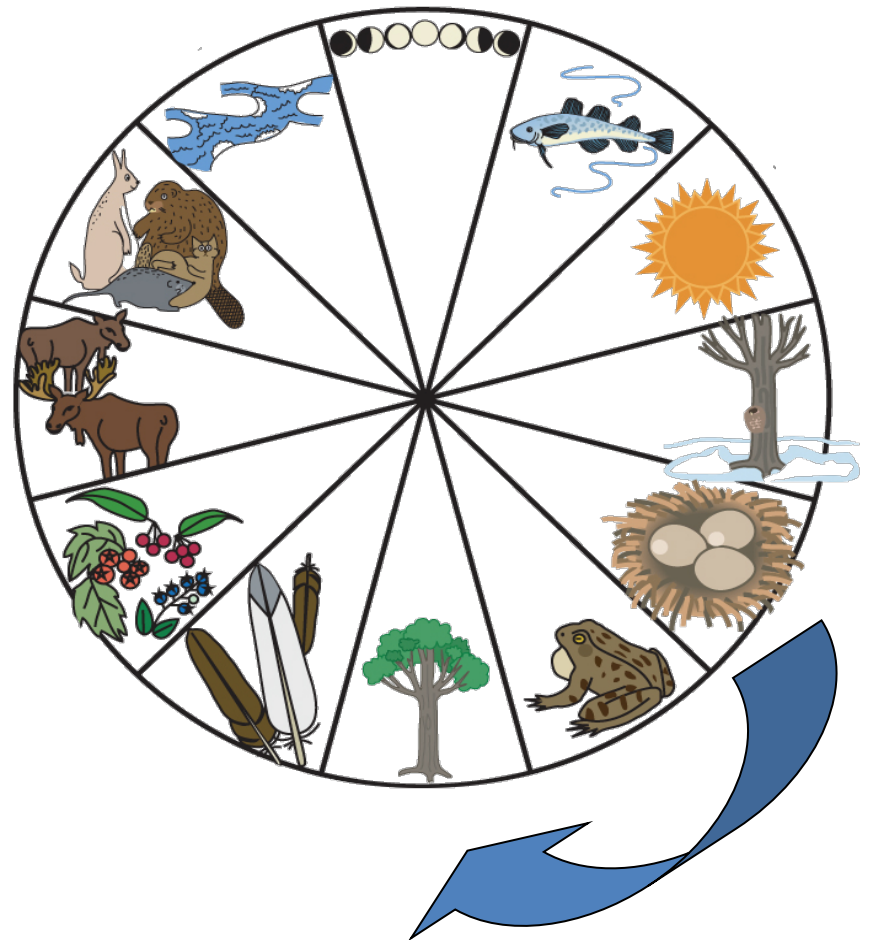
Muin/Bear-wise

= apparent direction of movement of the stars around Tatapn/North Star/Polaris each night in the northern hemisphere and thus also the apparent direction of movement of the meta-pattern, over one full year, of ***“Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters”***



sun-wise

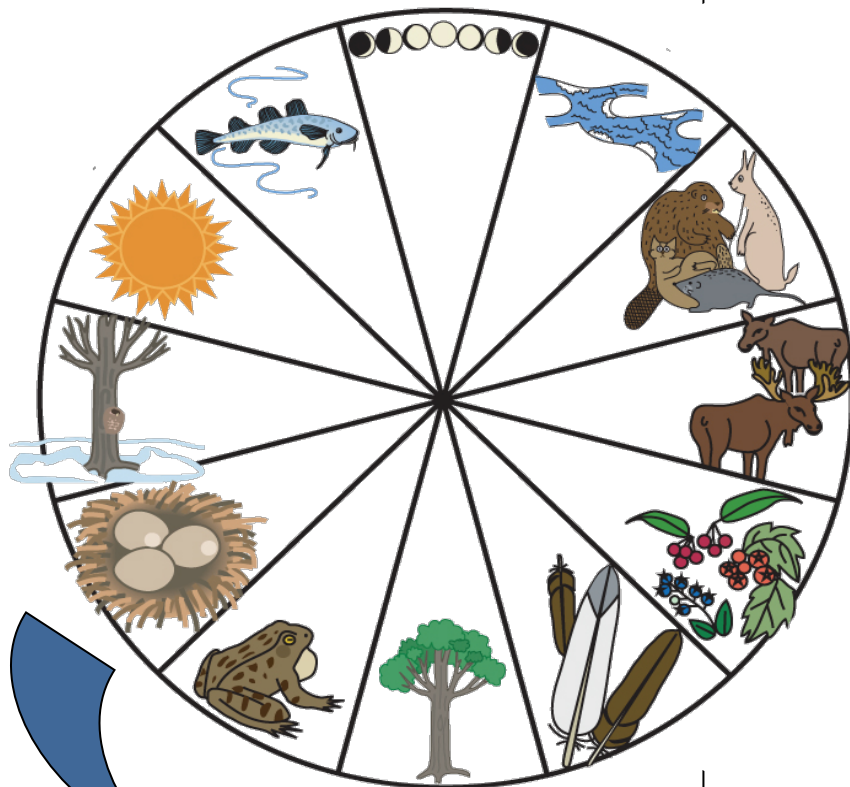
= apparent direction of movement of the sun across the southern sky each day in the northern hemisphere



Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters

a Mi'kmaw Night Sky Story

... of the meta-pattern of apparent change in the stars as seen by humans two hours before dawn



Muin/Bear-wise



when viewed, through the seasons,
in Mi'kma'ki, the Traditional Territory
of the Mi'kmaw People

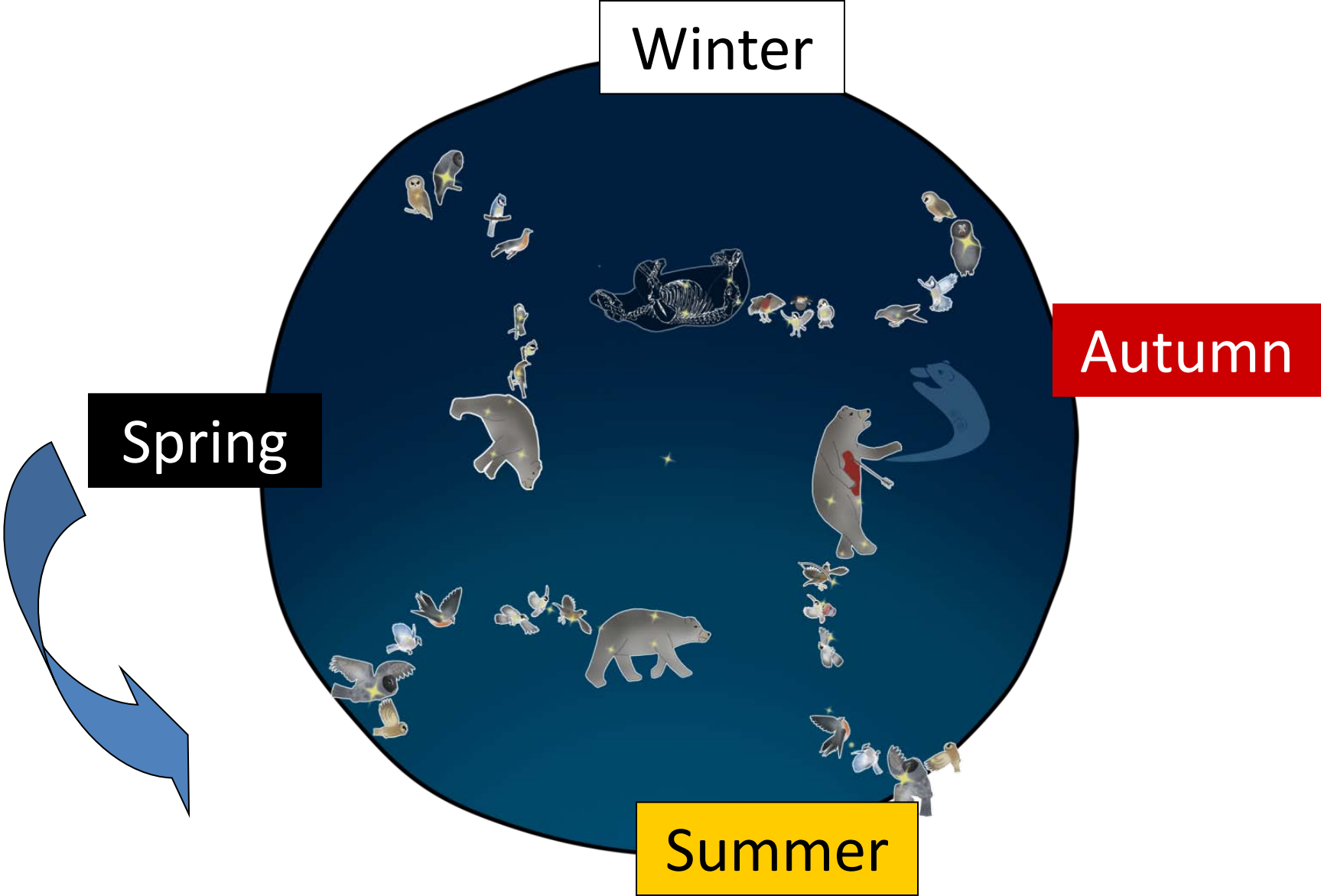
meta-pattern, by season and over one full year, of
"Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters"

Winter

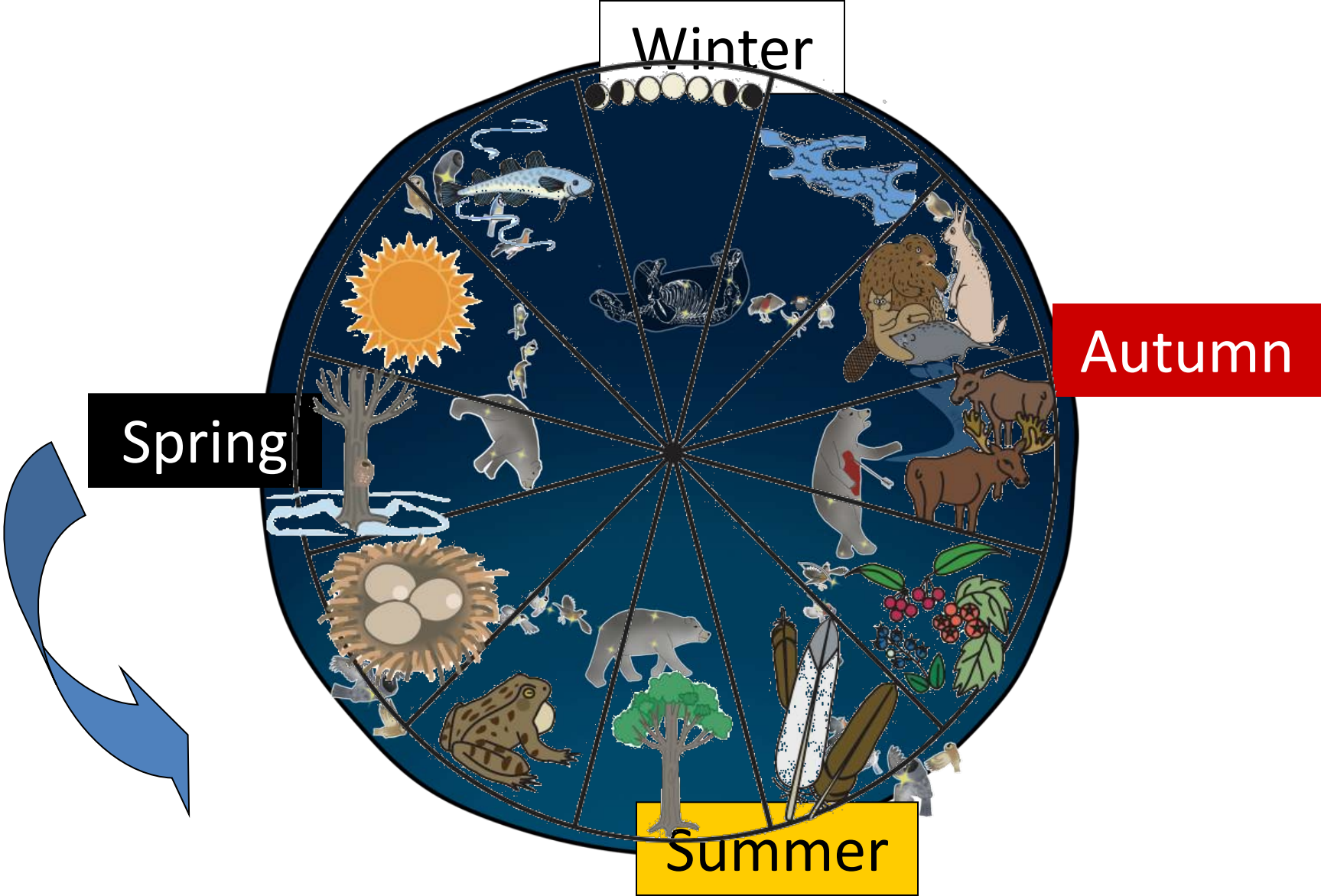
Autumn

Spring

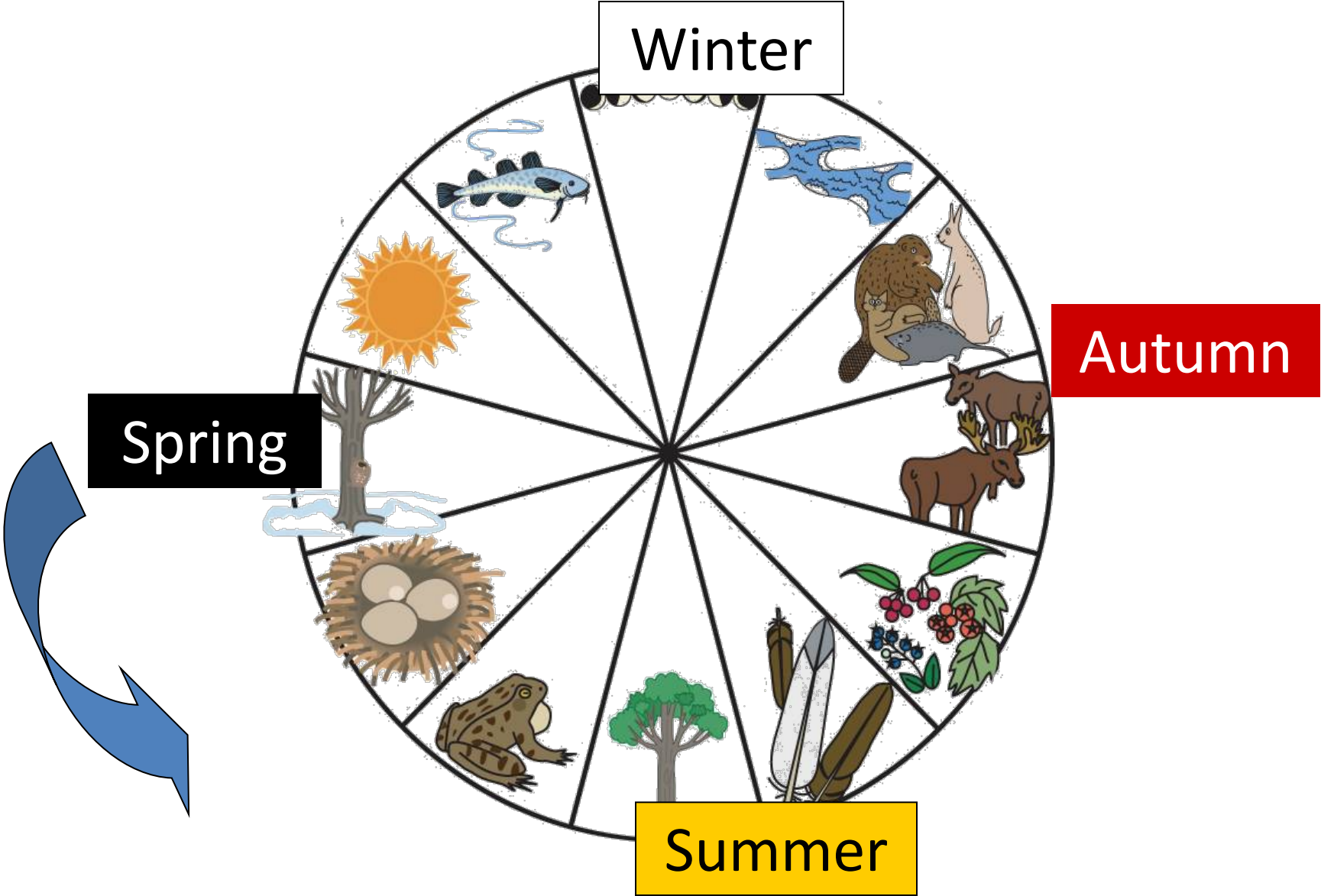
Summer



meta-pattern, by season and over one full year, of
“Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters”



meta-pattern, by season and over one full year, of
“Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters”



Pemi Pungek Mi'kma'ki

Winter

Autumn

Spring

Summer

This poster is dedicated to all Mi'kmaq Elders.

This poster is one in a series made by the Institute for Integrative Science and Health at Cape Breton University and Mi'kmaq First Nations' Elders of Cape Breton. Integrative Science brings together Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge and ways of knowing for science education.

This poster is called Pemi Pungek Mi'kma'ki, which means one continuous year in the Mi'kmaq traditional territory. On the outside, it shows the four seasons and the 12 months of the year. On the inside, it shows the land, water, and sky over a full year. The pictures of plants, animals, and weather show the series of changing events in nature. The pictures of people show when to do traditional and modern activities. Read this poster in a circle to see the cycle of the seasons. Spring is on the left, summer is on the bottom, fall is on the right, and winter is at the top.



Pemi Pungek Mi'kma'ki

Winter

Autumn

Spring

Summer

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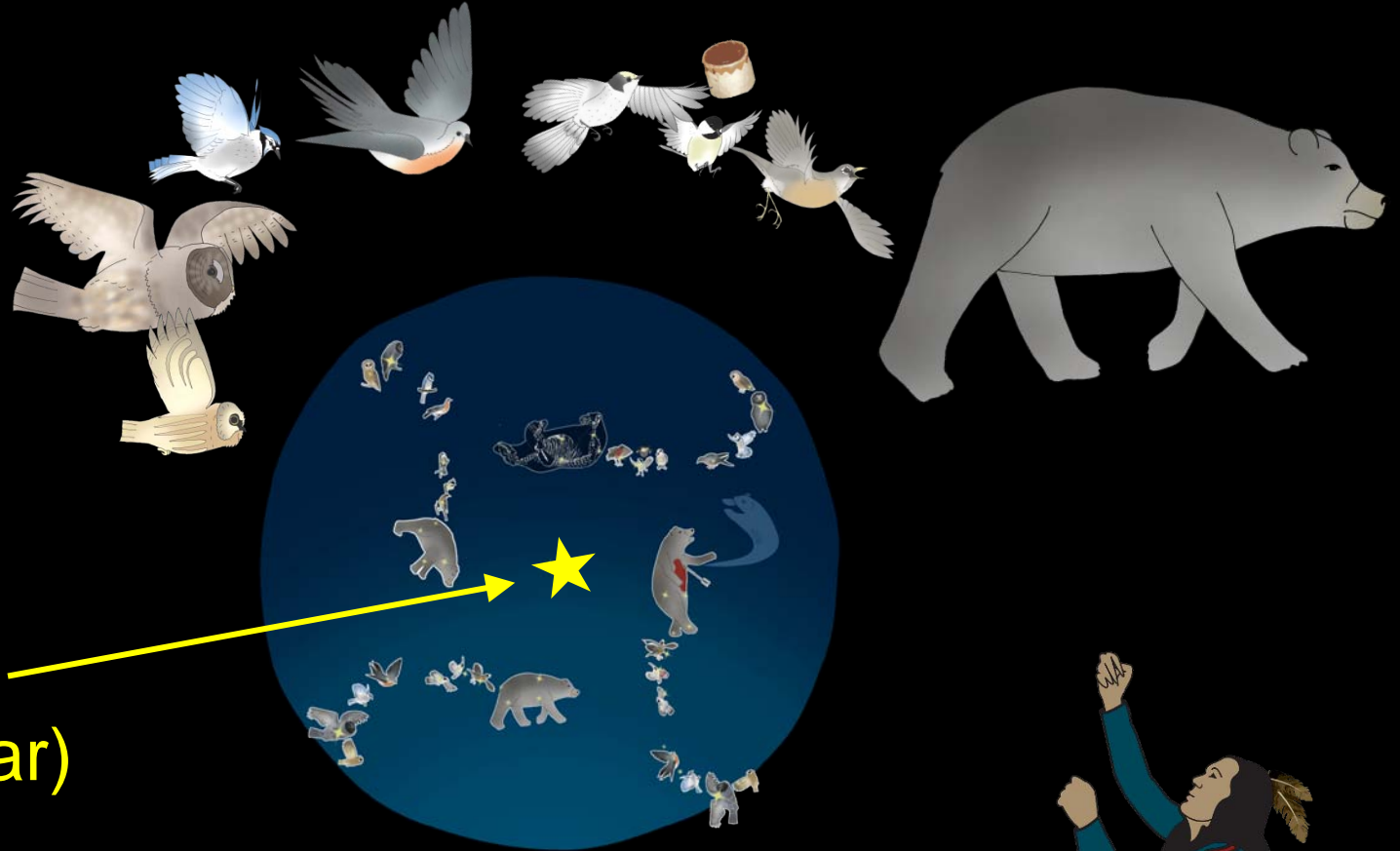
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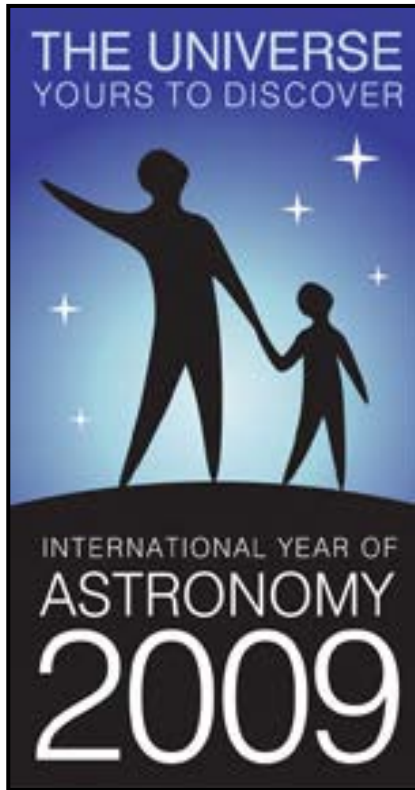
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Tatapn
(North Star)

**Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters:
a Mi'kmaw Night Sky Story
... interconnectiveness of
space-time-life-knowledge-spirit**





Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters

a Mi'kmaq Night Sky Story

VERSIONS: MI'KMAQ & ENGLISH, ENGLISH, FRENCH



THE UNIVERSE
YOURS TO DISCOVER
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
ASTRONOMY
2009



CAPE BRETON
UNIVERSITY



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view video at:

<http://www.integrativescience.com/Media/Video/>

Muin aqq Luiknek Te'sijik Ntuksuinuk

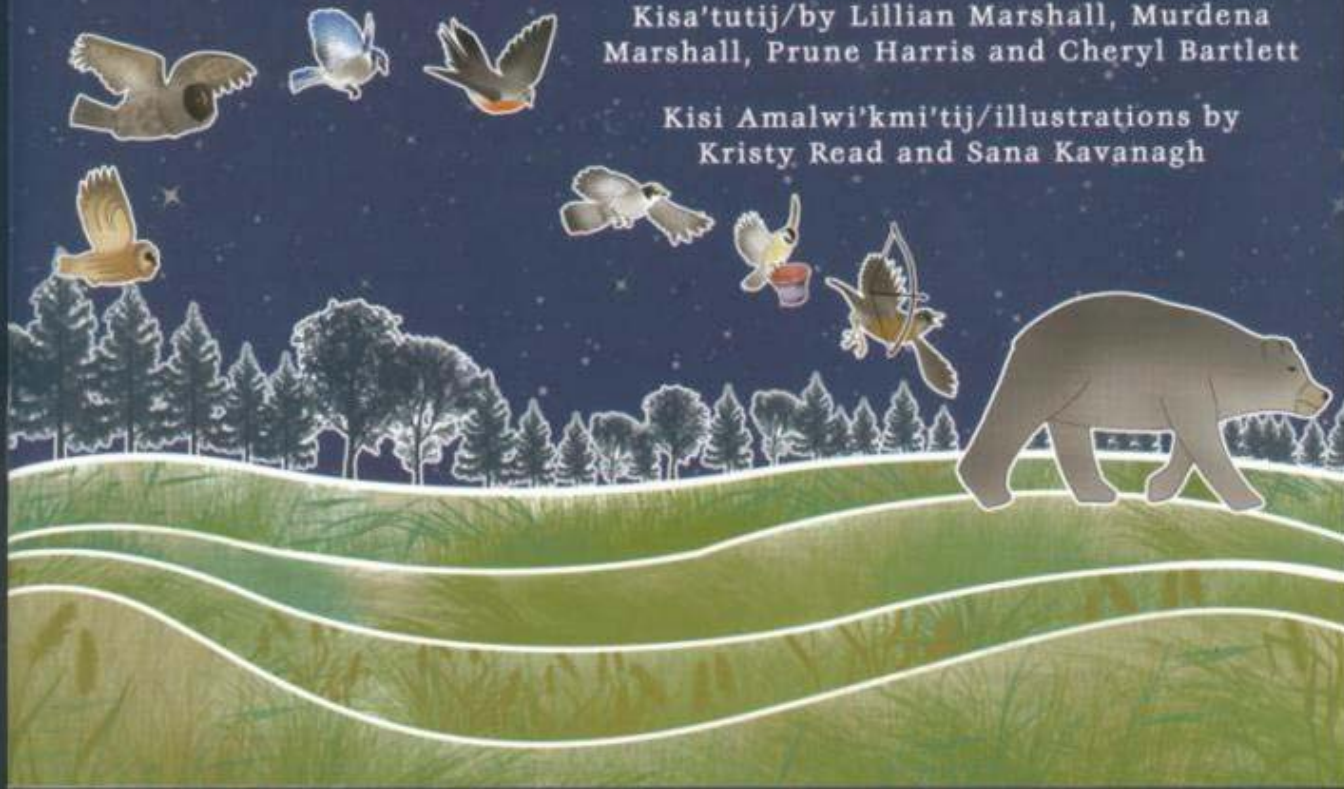
MI'KMAWEY TEPKIKEWAY MUSIKISKEY A'TUKWAQN

Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters

A MI'KMAW NIGHT SKY STORY

Kisa'tutij/by Lillian Marshall, Murdena
Marshall, Prune Harris and Cheryl Bartlett

Kisi Amalwi'kmi'tij/illustrations by
Kristy Read and Sana Kavanagh



**Children's
Storybook**

published by:
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Sydney, NS
2010**