

MI'KMAW

WIKEWIKU'S
2025

HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER
2025

A'tukwemk aq A'tukowinu'k Storytelling and Storytellers

Across the night sky, a hunt is always happening that reflects cycles on Earth. Look up! Around now, the arrow of Jipjawej (robin) strikes Muin (bear). The blood splashes, turning the chest of Jipjawej red. Look around you! The leaves turn red at the same time. The signs in the sky and on earth work together to tell us the food we hunt in the fall is most nutritious.

Stories like Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters help us navigate the year in Mi'kma'kik with the knowledge of our ancestors. The story carries us through time, illuminating the same night sky they saw. It would not make sense farther north or farther south where the star patterns are not the same. This story is unique to Mi'kma'kik—as all of our stories are.

Mi'kma'w stories are distinctive and descriptive—rich with detail, shaped by the land and waters, and born from Mi'kma'kik. They could not come from anywhere else.

Storytellers bring laughter and life to the narratives and teachings. They hold generations of knowledge that strengthen and grow Mi'kma'w ways of knowing and being. When they share, something bigger than the story comes to life.

Stories and storytelling are not just about remembering, but about forming deep connections to each other, to our ancestors, and to the knowledge passed down over time.

"Pa'qo!" Ki'kwa'ju (badger) calls to each part of his body to come back. When Ki'kwa'ju has all the pieces of himself back together, he jumps up, elated!

Our stories hold pieces of ourselves, reminding us who we are. Our ancestors knew this, and worked hard to pass those stories to future generations. A'tukwemk (storytelling) helps bring those pieces together. Many of our stories have been lost or forgotten. Today, L'nu'k, like Ki'kwa'ju, tell stories to call all parts of us home.



Ahh! Apli'kmuj (rabbit) cries in pain. He wanted to get food the way Apo'qejit (woodpecker) does, but when he banged his head on the tree, he split his lip—you can still see that split today!

Our stories describe life in Mi'kma'kik in amazing detail. They share important survival knowledge and convey teachings from our waysisk (animals) relatives. The story of Apli'kmuj and Apo'qejit describes the split lip of Apli'kmuj. It also reminds us that we do not have to be Apo'qejit—Apli'kmuj has important gifts of his own.

The sky is just like the earth, but older. Mi'kma'w star stories bring the earth and sky together, like Skite'kmujawti Mikjij, where the spirit road (Milky Way) is reflected in Kluskap's paint on shell of Mikjij.

The same stars that guide people today guided our ancestors—helping with navigation, timing, and identity. When we tell stories, we bring our ancestors into the present, just like Mikjij (turtle) brought the spirit road to earth by wearing it on his back.



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