



Kluscap's Cave

The first trail we are highlighting is a very special one. Known as Kluscap's Cave or the Fairy Hole, this trail in Unama'ki (pronounced Oon-ah-mahg-ee or Cape Breton in English) is connected to many legends and teachings.

Several of these stories include Kluscap's canoe, his grandmother, and his final resting place. It is said that in this cave, Kluscap, who is understood to be a star being, left this world to return to the cosmos. The Mi'kmaq believed Kluscap would return one day, when they needed his aid the most.

It is said that Kluscap was raised by his grandmother. At this time, he was also being informed by the Mi'kmaq about Kopit (pronounced Gobit), the beaver. Kopit was harming their lands while building dams. Kopit will be a common character in the following stories, acting as Kluscap's rival. Still, the beaver is a significant and practical part in Mi'kmaw culture. Their bones were used to carve stone, and the beaver is associated with wisdom in the Seven Sacred Teachings.

Kluscap is a highly respected figure in Mi'kmaw culture, and over time, many customs and beliefs have developed to honour him. One custom involved dipping newborn infants into the coldest water available, sometimes even in the middle of winter. The Mi'kmaq of Membertou, near Sydney, describe this practice as an act of worship, honouring Kluscap as the guardian spirit of the waters.

Kluscap is closely connected to lightning, rain, thunder, and water. He was also a great medicine man, known for healing the Mi'kmaq using his deep knowledge of plants, animals, and the natural world.

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Kluscap's Cave is one of the most important places in Mi'kma'ki. This sacred site is where Kluscap, a star being, is said to have returned to the cosmos. This location is connected to many legends, teachings, and traditions that honour Kluscap.