

Trapping in Canada

Throughout the history of Canada, trapping has been used and practiced. It started being practiced in Canada in the early 1600s. From the fur trade to now, it has been useful for many generations. Throughout this essay, I will talk about the kinds of animals that are trapped in Canada, the history of trapping in Canada, trapping now in Canada and the traps and snares that are used while trapping animals.

Animals That are Trapped

There is and always has been a very wide variety of animals that are trapped. Beavers and muskrats make up over 50% of the wild pelts sold in Canada. They are most trapped because of their high population, valuable fur, and their status as widespread, semi-aquatic furbearers. Black, grizzly and polar bears are trapped. Bears are large animals, and their pelts typically sell for \$100 to \$600. Raccoons are also a high percentage of the animals trapped in Canada. They are trapped a lot because they have a very high population density, and they are considered pests. Martens, minks, foxes, coyotes, fishers, squirrels, weasels, wolves, wolverines, are only a small number of the animals that are trapped in Canada. Lynx and wolverine have the most expensive pelts. Wolverine pelts are a whopping average of \$559.05, and lynx pelts are from higher than \$100 to over \$140. There are many different species trapped, and some have more valuable pelts, while others have less valuable pelts.

The Fur Trade

The Fur Trade makes up most of the history of trapping in Canada, and practically started our country. The fur trade was from the early 16th century to the mid 19th century. The Fur

Trade was a huge enterprise across the wild, forested land that is now Canada. It was at its peak for almost 250 years.

When the wide brimmed felt hat came into fashion late in the 16th century, the want for beaver pelts increased greatly. The fur trade began in the 16th century because of this wide demand for beaver pelts. The Fur Trade fueled the European demand for pelts (mostly beaver) to make hats.

At the start of the fur trade, the First Nations Peoples did most of the trapping. However the Metis developed skills for hunting and trapping as well. They began to make a living as trappers by the early 1700s. The Fur Trade was a very important part in history and our country was built on it.

Trapping Now in Canada

Today, there are only a very small number of Canadians that still trap. Based on the 2012 Canadian Nature Survey, approximately 0.5% of Canadian adults participated in trapping at that time. There are estimated to be roughly 60,000 active trappers in Canada, and roughly 25,000 of that number is made up of Indigenous people.

There are less people in Canada that trap actively now compared to the fur trade. It is because of shifting market wants, unavailability economically, changing social values, and changes in structure in Canada's northern communities. Trapping is now much more regulated than it used to be. During the Fur Trade, this problem caused over-harvesting of species, like beaver, which was near extinction by the 1900s. There are now significantly less people who trap than there used to be.

Traps and Snares

There are a wide variety of traps and snares that are used to trap and snare animals. A snare trap is a device that is made of wire. It is a loop that is pretty hard to see when set. It is meant to get the animal around the neck, and make it so that the harder it pulls, the quicker it dies. One kind of trap is called a body gripping trap, which is often called the Conibear trap. These traps are designed to dispatch animals quickly by hitting their neck or their torso. These traps were developed in the 1950s. Another kind of trap is the foothold trap. They are designed to trap an animal's foot and hold the animal alive. Another cool trap is the dog-proof trap that is designed to trap raccoons and not trap pets. This makes it easier to not to trap animals that people don't want to trap.

Trapping is a fun and important practice. It is good not to over harvest certain species, so they do not become endangered. My grandpa traps for part of his living, and I have learned a lot from him. I hope that you learned more about this fun topic, and the way it is and has been practised.