Beavers - tëmakwe

History: Beavers were an essential species in shaping the waterways and meadows of Lenapehoking's estuary and "the Lenape trapped beavers for their pelts for ages before Europeans arrived". – PhillyNature.org

However… "just two centuries after European settlers first arrived, the number of beavers in New York State fell from an estimated 60 million to almost none at all."

A good sign: "….efforts in the early 1900s to reintroduce beavers by releasing them in the Adirondacks have been largely successful. By 1924, upstate beaver populations were thriving again. And in 2007 a beaver was spotted in the Bronx River, marking the first beaver sighting in New York City in over 200 years. Beavers are now present on Staten Island as well and have been spotted in Manhattan and Brooklyn." – Wildlife NYC

How beavers help protect from the effects of climate change today:

They Stop Wildfires: "within river corridors, beavers can play a key role in creating natural fire breaks by rewetting meadows and reducing the encroachment of forests, researchers have found." – Alex Wigglesworth, *Yes, beavers can help stop wildfires. And more places in California are embracing them.* LA Times

They create refuge for wildlife during wildfires: "Beavers create refuges from wildfire : unburned or lightly crisped islands where plants and animals are able to survive amid flames." – Alex Wigglesworth, *Yes, beavers can help stop wildfires. And more places in California are embracing them.* LA Times

**See "Beavers and Wildfire A Stop-motion Story"

Oysters - sisawinàk

History: “Some biologists estimate that New York Harbor one contained half of the world’s oysters (but) ...New York’s oysters were too polluted to eat by 1927, and pollution only increased in subsequent years. It was not until after 1972’s Clean Water Act that any improvements were seen, but the oysters are still not edible almost 40 years after the passage of that act.” - Mark Kurlansky, The Big Oyster

A good sign: The Billion Oyster Project launched in 2014 and has 18 active ouster restoration sites across 16 acres of New York Harbor, and have restored 100 million juvenile oysters. Oysters are starting to reproduce in the Harbor – a sign that the population can become self-sustaining once again! Did you know that New York Harbor is the cleanest it’s been in 100 years? “ - Billion Oyster Project

How oysters help protect from the effects of climate change today:

They **create breakwaters in stronger storms, preventing flooding**: “During a storm, underwater oyster reefs or beds – dense colonies of oysters both living and dead – act as a natural breakwater, absorbing wave energy before it hits the shore.” - Matchar, Emily. *As Storms Get Bigger, Oyster Reefs Can Help Protect Shorelines. Smithsonian Magazine*

They also **filter water, cleaning pollutants: “**A single oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.” - Sargent, Channing. Oysters: Nature’s water filtration system, One Earth

Blue Flour Corn - sèhsapsink

Touching Leaves Grating Corn for Kahahpon

History: Nora Thompson Dean stayed connected to Lenapehoking by saving the seeds of blue flour corn - sèhsapsink. The Morgan Library exhibited her journals and art and grew blue corn and amaranth in their garden.

A good sign: “Seed rematriation means the seeds are returning home. It’s a process of growing, saving and sharing seeds that have been separated from their home communities. Seeds are relatives with cultural resonance that can heal pieces of the historical traumas of separation from home and erasure of Indigenous presence.”

How blue corn helps protect from effect of climate change today:

Biodiversity to protect against plant pests and disease: “In a biodiverse ecosystem, a threat to one crop may not be a threat to others.” - Robbins, Ocean. Monocropping: A Disastrous Agricultural System, Food Revolution Network.

Better nutrition: “Monocultures of (one type of) corn and palm oil can produce more calories — but far less nutrition — per acre than many other crops.” - Robbins, Ocean. Monocropping: A Disastrous Agricultural System, Food Revolution Network.

Healthier water and soil: “Fertilizers, pesticides, and factory farm waste also harm the ability of soil to sustain life.” - Robbins, Ocean. Monocropping: A Disastrous Agricultural System, Food Revolution Network.

More resilient to climate change: Monoculture farming “is less able to withstand fires, pests, and extreme weather events.” - Robbins, Ocean. Monocropping: A Disastrous Agricultural System, Food Revolution Network.