



Seed Songs



The Haudenosaunee, as well as other Indigenous groups, view seeds as their relatives. In this manner they understand that it is important to establish and maintain relationships characterized by reciprocity with seeds. One way in which the Haudenosaunee do this is by singing seed songs. The purpose of seed songs is to restore a human connection with seeds.

Seed songs are sung during the planting period. It is believed that they are powerful enough to stir the seed from its sacred slumber. Seed songs are also sung during the harvest period in order to thank for the land for its many gifts. The songs are infused with gratitude for the many gifts that the land provides. Seed songs are important as they have the potential to reestablish relationships of reciprocity with the land that were negatively impacted by colonization.

Local Haudenosaunee seed songs are sacred and so are not shared directly in this Bundle. It is only appropriate to receive and share these songs in relationship. Local Indigenous community members, however, shared with QUILLS that the lyrics of seed songs are meant to express thanks to the earth. With this in mind, all individuals regardless of their cultural background, can write their own version



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of a seed song that expresses both their culture and their individual relationship to the land. All individuals can imagine and express kind word and intentions for the land around them.