

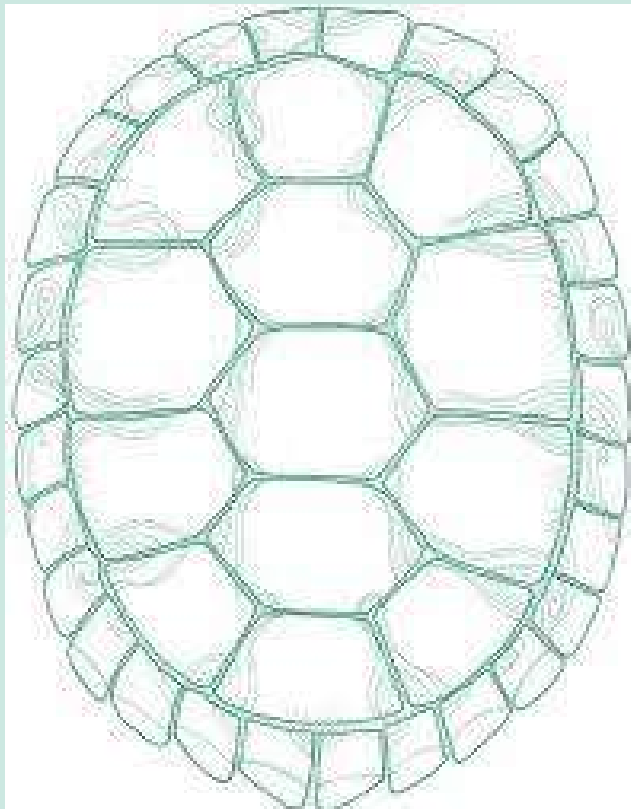


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Link to a reading of [*Thirteen Moons on a Turtle's Back*](#)
by Joseph Bruchac and Jonathan London



13 Moons on the Turtle's Back

Learning about the Lunar Calendar

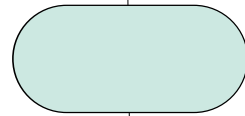


Important Information

References:
Ceremonies. Haudenosaunee Confederacy. (2021, June 9). Retrieved from <https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/ceremonies/>
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<https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/deepeningknowledge/UserFiles/File/curriculum-final.pdf> E.Conroy, K.Wheatley, B. Johnson 2011
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There are 13 large scutes on a turtle's shell. Traditionally, the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee follow a lunar calendar with 13 moons and 28 days in each lunar cycle. The 13 moons are represented by the 13 scutes on a turtle's back.



The name of each moon represents an important event or change to the land that happens during that lunar cycle.



This natural calendar is a reminder of the interconnectedness of all things and the importance of trying to live in balance.



Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee nations have a special relationship with the turtle and there are many traditional teachings associated with this animal.



The names of the 13 moons will vary between nations and communities, depending on the climate, terrain, and cultural traditions and practices in each area. Teachings about each moon are directly related to the land.



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NEW LEARNINGS:

Learn More About local Anishinaabe and
Haudenosaunee Land-Based Practices Related to
Each Moon

Group Work



Anishinaabe Lunar Calendar

Minido Giizis	Spirit Moon
Makwa Giizis	Bear Moon
Ziinsibaakwadoke	Sugar Moon
Namebine Giizis	Sucker Moon
Waawaaskone Giizis	Flower Moon
Ode'min Giizis	Strawberry Moon
Mskomini Giizis	Raspberry Moon
Datkaagmin Giizis	Thimbleberry Moon
Mdaamiin Giizis	Corn Moon
Biinaakwe Giizis	Falling Leaves Moon
Mshkawji Giizis	Freezing Moon
Manidoo Giizoonhs	Little Spirit Moon
Manidoo Giizis	Big Spirit Moon



Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Minido Giizis

Spirit Moon

At this time the snow is the deepest. It is time for big game hunting (moose, deer, elk).

Makwa Giizis

Bear Moon

Time to rest with the bear consuming resources that have been saved throughout the rest of the year.



Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Ziinsibaakwadoke

Sugar Moon

Time to collect sugar water from the maple tree.

Namebine Giizis

Sucker Moon

When ice comes off the rivers time to fish for sucker, walleye and other local fish species.





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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Waawaaskone Giizis

Flower Moon

When flowers begin to show their beauty.

Ode'min Giizis

Strawberry Moon

When strawberries emerge. The strawberry is honored and celebrated.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Mskomini Giizis

Raspberry Moon

Time when raspberries show themselves.

Datkaagmn Giizis

Thimbleberry Moon

Time when the thimbleberry or blackberry is honored.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Mdaamiin Giizis

Corn Moon

When corn is harvested.

Biinaakwe Giizis

Falling Leaves Moon

Leaves begin to fall as
community prepare for winter.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Mshkawii Giizis

Freezing Moon

As ice begins to form, securing fur and meat become top priorities.

Manidoo Giizoonhs

Little Spirit Moon

All food for the year has been collected. Time for celebrating, storytelling and feasting.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Manidoo Giizis

Big Spirit Moon

When the moon is full. Time to recognize and reflect on the communities connection to the land, water and all of creation.



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Haudenosaunee Lunar Calendar

"The Haudenosaunee have **13 ceremonies** throughout the year, representing each of the 13 moons. These ceremonies follow seasonal changes on the land and are also a way of expressing thanks "to the people, the natural world, the spirit world and the Creator" (Haudenosaunee Confederacy, 2021).



Haudenosaunee Lunar Calendar

Sha'tekohserí:hen Wenhni:tare	Midwinter Moon
Wata'kerokwaskó:wa Wenhni:tare	Great Snow Moon
Wáhta Wenhni:tare	Sugar/ Maple Moon
Ratiwé:ras Wenhni:tare	Thunder Moon
Tewayénthos Wenhni:tare	Planting Moon
Ken'niyohontéhsha Wenhni:tare	Strawberry Moon
Orhótsheri Wenhni:tare	Green Beans Moon
Okahseró:ta Wenhni:tare	Corn Moon
Yeyenthókwás Wenhni:tare	Harvest Moon
Yontékhwayens Wenhni:tare	Food Storing Moon
Rontó:rats Wenhni:tare	Hunting Moon
Wahsónte:sons Wenhni:tare	Long Nights Moon
Watoríhshens Wenhni:tare	Resting Moon



Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Sha'tekohserí:hen Wenhni:tare

Midwinter Moon

Folks gather in ceremony to stir the ashes. This provides a sense of renewal and gratitude moving into the New Year.

Wata'kerokwaskó:wa Wenhni:tare

Great Snow Moon

Time to hunt game and engage in winter games like snow snakes.



Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Wáhta Wenhni:tare

Sugar/Maple Moon

Time to harvest sweet water and engage in Wháta ceremonies.

Ratiwé:ras Wenhni:tare

Thunder Moon

When the thunders come.
Community knows spring is on its way and its time for planting.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

**Tewayénthos
Wenhni:tare**

Planting Moon

Time for planting corn and other crops.

**Ken'niyohontéhsha
Wenhni:tare**

Strawberry Moon

Time when the strawberry
emerges.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

**Orhótsheri
Wenhni:tare**

Green Beans Moon

Celebrating and honoring the gifts provided by the green bean.

**Okahseró:ta
Wenhni:tare**

Corn Moon

Honoring corn as the eldest sister and the one that holds all the other sisters together.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

**Yeyenthókwas
Wenhni:tare**

Harvest Moon

Time to harvest the gifts of the earth.

**Yontékhwayens
Wenhni:tare**

Food Storing Moon

Time to store food for the long
winter ahead.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

**Rontó:rats
Wenhni:tare**

Hunting Moon

Hunting to prepare for the long winter months ahead.

**Wahsón:sons
Wenhni:tare**

Long Nights Moon

The moon closest to the Winter Solstice. A time for people to gather and tell stories.



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Land-Based Practices During Each Moon

Wateríhshens Wenhni:tare

Resting Moon

Time to rest, celebrate and tell stories.



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References

- *Ceremonies*. Haudenosaunee Confederacy. (2021, June 9). Retrieved from <https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/ceremonies/>
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