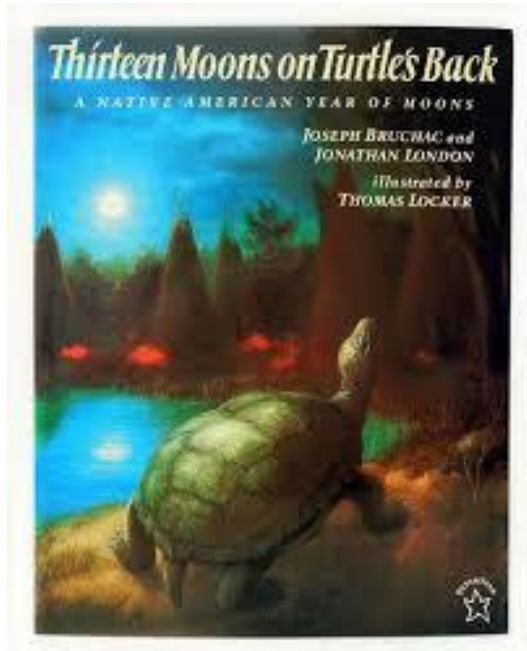


Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back



Traditional Native American culture relied heavily on the natural world around them. As the seasons changed the tribes noted changes in the environment. Many North American tribes used a turtle's back, with 13 large scales surrounded by 28 smaller scales, to illustrate the lunar calendar which has 13 moons each consisting of 28 days.

Joseph Bruchac and Jonathan London's book *Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back* from Paperstar Press published in 1992 provides the names of 13 moons selected from 13 different North American tribes. Because each tribe lived in different regions, what they observed around themselves in their environment differed from what other tribes in other regions observed. Therefore, not all tribes used the same names for the different moons.

Follow this link to hear a reading of the story by Uncji April, with the Akta Lakota Museum; an outreach of St. Joseph Indian School. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpT7MfXogTQ>

Another link to a great video showing how a turtle's shell was used as a calendar in the Native American culture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UCwplYHzL0>

This link takes you to a curriculum based on the Native Thirteen Moon calendar: <http://onlc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/13-Moon-curriculum2.pdf>

Follow this link to an image of a turtle shell with the numerical patterns laid out in the order the native culture would have used to track the 13 moons and 28 days of each lunar month. <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~mosmd/13moons.jpg>

Follow this link to a printable cut and paste 3D pattern of a turtle: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~mosmd/turtle.jpg>

Visit National Geographic Kids to learn 10 fun facts about turtles: <https://www.natgeokids.com/nz/discover/animals/sea-life/turtle-facts/>

Watch a video featuring many varieties of North American turtle filmed at the Garden State Turtle habitat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbxKy_D6v-k