

13 Moons Teacher Guide

This unit is designed to introduce some cultural concepts related to the Anishinaabe 13-month calendar. The unit demonstrates how our language describes the seasons and the moons (months). The turtle has been used for generations as a calendar to count the months and the days, the 28-day cycle of the months. It should be explained that the moon names for the months can vary regionally.

This unit provides opportunity to create dialog about:

- ◆ How knowledge is passed down.
- ◆ Anishinaabek, even the ancient people, had a deep awareness of the sky realm.
- ◆ Anishinaabek wisdom of our solar system.
- ◆ How the moon influences the tides on the earth.
- ◆ Part of the Creation Story about muskrat getting earth after the big flood and placing it upon turtle's back.
- ◆ The importance of the relationship between Anishinaabek and the natural world.

13 Moons Handout 1 introduces cultural, seasonal activities and the 13 moons to the students:

- The name of each month and the art within each moon should trigger discussion. Ask the question “Why do you think it is called_____”?
- Go over the words for the four seasons. If this is new vocabulary speak and repeat at least 3 times.
- Pass out a blank piece of paper and ask the students to draw a description of one or more month(s) and write out the Anishinaabe name on their picture. This could be done in groups with assigned months or individually.
- Go to **Kahoot.com** and search LTBBLangtech. Find the kahoot named **Ningo Kinonawin**. This game is designed to help the student learn to associate the cultural artwork with name. The question is the same.....”which season is this moon”? Students can use their handout for help.

Turtle Template Handout 2 will introduce how Anishinaabek use the calendar.

- 13 sections on the turtle back represent the moons. Students can write in the names of the moons.
- The 28 sections around the turtle shell represent each day of one moon cycle. Students can write in the numerals 1 - 28 and count them in Anishinaabemowin, depending on student level.
- Have the students use a blank turtle template to draw a symbol or picture into each moon section, “How would you represent that month?” Have students share their rendition of graphically depicting the moons.

Turtle Activity 3 is a cut-and-glue puzzle activity. For younger students, print out larger pieces to adjust for fine motor skills of cutting and gluing.

- Student use the “Picture Puzzle Pieces Activity 3” to cut out the 13 picture-filled shapes.

- Students use the “Turtle Puzzle Template Activity 3” which is labeled with the moon names, to glue their cut pieces onto the template, in the correct space as they speak and repeat each name.
- “Finished Turtle Activity 3” shows what the finished turtle should look like.
- Students can then color the remaining white spaces of the turtle.
- Students can use their turtles for practice saying the names of the moons.

13 Moons Activity 4

- Have the students cut out circle pictures of each moon, say the name of the moon and say the season the moon belongs in. Then student pastes the moon onto the sheet for that season.
- Cut out circle pictures of each month and pass them out to the students. Ask “Who has the picture of (Bnaakwii) Giizis?” They answer, ‘I have the picture of (Bnaakwii) Giizis.’ (see Anishinaabemowin vocabulary list)

Other Worksheets included:

- 13 Moons Word Search
- Matching Words Match AtoZ (Anishinaabemowin to Zhaaganaashiimowin) Worksheet
- Match 13 Moon Pictures

Unit Core Vocabulary

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