

**Book Title:** *Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: Native American Year of Moons*

**Authors:** Joseph Bruchac and Jonathan London

**Artwork/Illustrations:** Thomas Locker

**Annotation:** The thirteen scales on Old Turtle's back hold the key to the thirteen cycles of the moon and the changing seasons. These lyrical poems and striking paintings celebrate the wonder of the seasons, from the Northern Cheyenne's Moon of the Popping Trees to the Big Moon of the Abenaki.

**Text Set on Calendar or Seasons:** Moonstick: The Seasons of the Sioux (Bunting), Alice Yazzie's Year (Maher), Navajo Year (Flood)

**Concepts at a Glance:**

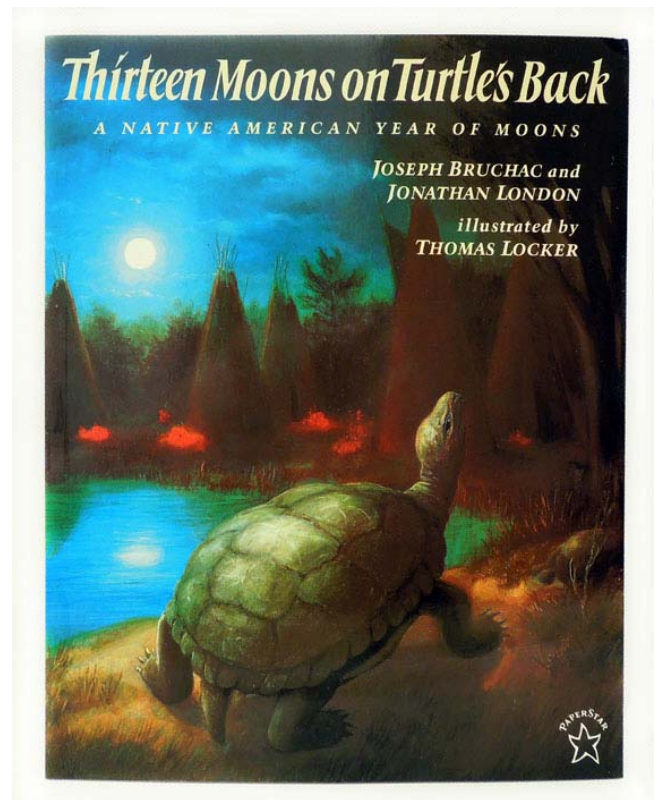
- First Nations Legends, Relationship with the Natural World
- Seasonal Changes

**Links to Explore:**

- Develop a calendar in either the Cree or Ojibwa language using Paintbrush  
<http://www.wsd1.org/LessonPlans/Social%20Studies%20Activities/Aboriginal%20Ojibwe%20Cree%20Calendar.htm>
- <http://www.inquiry.net/outdoor/native/sign/moons-months.htm>
- Thirteen Moons and the Turtle: <http://www.anishinaabemdaa.com/moons.htm>

**Projects, Ideas and Activities:**

1. Read each segment at the start of each corresponding month.
2. Create a circular moon chart to watch the changing shape of each phase of the moon.
3. Reflect on  
the changing seasons and seasonal activities portrayed in the book and write down words that capture this. Then have students write a sentence or paragraph on the current moon (month) using some of the brainstormed words. Draw a picture to go with the writing.
4. Count the number and types of animals.
5. Count the number of months; work with a calendar.
6. Taste maple syrup. Eat fresh strawberries. Sample wild rice.
7. Listen to a nature CD of croaking frogs.
8. Look at a piece of moose hide and try counting the hairs.
9. Gather falling leaves.
10. Invite a guest to come in to the classroom and talk about moose hunting and demonstrate a moose call.



**Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back:  
Native American Year of Moons - Curricular Links**

**Science: Grade One**

- ✚ Topic B: Seasonal Changes

**Science Grade Three**

- ✚ Topic E: Animal Life Cycles

**Science Grade 6**

- ✚ Topic C: Sky Science

**Mathematical Strands:**

**Number**

- ✚ (1) Say a number sequence 100 (in a variety of ways).
- ✚ (1) Represent and describe numbers to 20, concretely, pictorially and symbolically.

**Patterns and Relations**

- ✚ (2) Demonstrate an understanding of repeating patterns using manipulatives, diagrams, sounds and actions.

**Mathematical Processes:** Problem solving, reasoning, connections.

**English Language Arts**

**1.1 Discover and Explore**

- ✚ (3) Connect prior knowledge and personal experiences with new ideas and information in oral, print and other media texts.
- ✚ (7) Reflect on own observations and experiences to understand and develop oral, print and other media texts.

**2.1 Use Strategies and Cues**

- ✚ (7) Identify, connect and summarize in own words, the main ideas from two or more sources on the same topic.
- ✚ (Discuss how the interpretations of the same text might vary, according to the prior knowledge and experiences of various readers.

**2.4 Create Original Text**

- ✚ (5) Experiment with modeled forms of oral, print and other media texts to suit particular audiences and purposes
- ✚ (9) Generalize from own experience to create oral, print and other media texts on a theme.