



Twelve Moons Curriculum Overview

1. Instructions

- The curriculum is arranged by book section, in order.
- Feel free to teach in any order you wish.
- The curriculum adheres to three objectives that guide the concepts and activities. The 3 objectives **may not** appear in all book sections.

Objective 1: Describe how the lives and activities of the Sauk and Meskwaki people were dictated by the lunar month.

Objective 2: Explore the traditional family life and culture of the Sauk and Meskwaki; when possible, compare or contrast it with American family life and culture today.

Objective 3: Identify and explain the natural resources utilized for survival by the Sauk and Meskwaki.

- Where appropriate, each section is divided into the subject areas of Language Skills, Social Studies, Science, and Math to enable teaching across the curriculum.
- Within each subject area are suggested activities and enrichment ideas. Activity sheets are provided and are found immediately after each subject. Feel free to innovate! Vocabulary words, review games, and a quiz are included in each section.
- Here is a suggestion for grading the quiz. Each fact is worth four points; one point for correct capitalization and punctuation, and three points are for content. The picture is worth three points, and each label is worth two points. The total is 25 points which makes scoring easier!

2. Lunar Months and Timekeeping

- The Sauk and Meskwaki kept time through lunar months.
- There are twelve lunar months in the book:
 1. Fish Moon (April 16-May 15, 1817)
 2. Planting Moon (May 16-June 13, 1817)
 3. First Summer Moon (June 14-July 13, 1817)
 4. Mid-Summer Moon (July 14-August 11, 1817)
 5. Elk Moon (August 12-September 10, 1817)
 6. First Frosty Moon (September 11-October 9, 1817)
 7. Rutting Moon (October 10-November 8, 1817)
 8. Freezing Moon (November 9-December 7, 1817)
 9. Big Bear Moon (December 8, 1817-January 5, 1818)
 10. Little Bear Moon (January 6-February 4, 1818)
 11. Cold Moon (February 5-March 6, 1818)
 12. Sap Moon (March 7-April 4, 1818)
- The lunar month ends on the day of the new moon, or as the Sauk and Meskwaki say, when the moon had "died."
- The Sauk and Meskwaki also used the position of the constellations to guide their movements.
- See the chart on the following page for a list of the lunar months and the book sections to which they correspond.

3. The Twelve Moons and Book Sections

Moon	Book Section	Book Section	Book Section	Book Section
Fish Moon April 16 to May 15	The Gathering pp. 6 & 7	Yellow Banks pp. 8 & 9	Reclaiming the Town pp. 14 & 15	Saukenuk p. 12 & 13 The Long House pp. 20 & 21
Planting Moon May 16 to June 13	Spring Planting pp. 16 & 17	Society and Ceremony pp. 18 & 19		Saukenuk p. 12 & 13 The Long House pp. 20 & 21
First Summer Moon June 14 to July 13	Summer Lands pp. 24 & 25	Prairie pp. 26 & 27	Forest pp. 28 & 29	River Bottom pp. 30 & 32 Lead Country pp. 33 & 34
Mid-Summer Moon July 14 to Aug. 11	Summer Lands pp. 24 & 25	Prairie pp. 26 & 27	Forest pp. 28 & 29	River Bottom pp. 30 & 32 Lead Country pp. 33 & 34
Elk Moon Aug. 12 to Sept. 10	Late Summer pp. 34 & 35	Harvest pp. 36 & 37	The Fur Traders pp. 38 & 39	Saukenuk p. 12 & 13 The Long House pp. 20 & 21
First Frosty Moon Sept. 11 to Oct. 9	Departing in Fall pp. 40 & 41			
Rutting Moon Oct. 10 to Nov. 8	Winter Camp pp. 42 & 43	Gathering Furs p. 44		
Freezing Moon Nov. 9 to Dec. 7	Winter Camp pp. 42 & 43	Gathering Furs p. 44		
Big Bear Moon Dec. 8 to Jan. 5	Winter Camp p. 42 & 43	Gathering Furs p. 44		
Little Bear Moon Jan. 6 to Feb. 4	Winter Camp pp. 42 & 43	Gathering Furs p. 45		
Cold Moon Feb. 5 to Mar. 6	Winter Camp pp. 42 & 43	Gathering Furs p. 45		
Sap Moon Mar. 7 to Apr. 4	The Sugar Camp pp. 46 & 47			

4. Clans

- Family groups called clans are important in Sauk and Meskwaki culture. Each clan takes its name from something in nature, which is that clan's totemic symbol.
- There are several activities in the curriculum that lend themselves well to working in groups. If you choose to, assign a clan name to each group, or let each group choose its own clan name.
- A list of Sauk clan names can be found on page 12 in *Twelve Moons*.
- Have each group research its clan totemic symbol.
- Have each student choose a name based on a descriptive characteristic of their totemic symbol. Examples:
 1. Bear Clan: "The Bear who has long claws," "The Bear who has a loud voice," or "The Bear who climbs down out of a tree."
 2. Wolf Clan: "The Wolf with a bushy tail," "The Wolf who hunts at night," or "Grey Coat."
 3. Great Lake: "The Big River," "The Ice," or "The Turtle."
 4. Thunder: "Black Thunder," "The Rain," or "The Noise that shakes the trees."

5. Moieties

- Each tribe is divided into two groups called moieties. As explained on pages 18 and 19, the moieties crossed clan and family lines. This provided unity within the tribe as a whole as brothers, sisters, cousins and members of the same clan would be in different moieties. One moiety always had to finish a task undertaken, while the other moiety could quit. In times past and under attack by an enemy, this allowed at least half of the tribe to survive.
- If you choose to, divide the class into moieties by having the students count off by ones and twos. Have each moiety choose a color to represent it and perhaps design a symbol of their moiety.

6. Ideas for Using Clans and Moieties

- Clans and moieties can be extended for the duration of the unit and used in the school day setting.
- Team sports or games divided by moieties
- Line up for lunch or recess divided by moieties.
- Classroom jobs, clans taking turns through the week

7. *Twelve Moons* is a circle story.

- *Twelve Moons* is told as a circle story because the Sauk and Meskwaki lived by the never-ending cycle of the moon and the seasons. Please refer to the first paragraph on page 6 and the last paragraph on page 47 to see this illustrated.

For further information about the book or curriculum guide contact:

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For further information about Black Hawk State Historic Site visit us at:

www.blackhawkpark.org