

Nehiyaw Land Connections



Understandings through the Calendar
Learning through Nehiyaw Terms

Kisēpīsim



JANUARY (The Great Moon)

Bear cubs are born. The noises on the land become sharp and echo in the cold, still air. Fur-bearing animals are quiet and still. Trees crack during the night and ice on lakes and rivers make loud booming noises. The roots of the tallest trees begin to stir. The power of the land and sacred life of Mother Earth is waking and it is moving around us

Ayāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	NtsokTsikāw	NistokTsikāw	NēwokTsikāw	Niyānāno kTsikāw	Nikotwāso kTsikāw

Mikisiwip̄sim

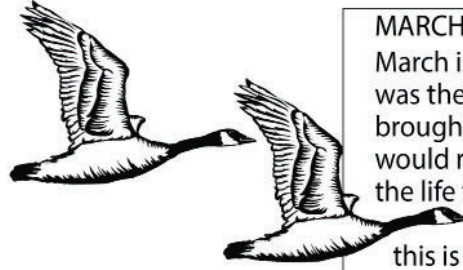


FEBRUARY (The Eagle Moon)

A stage of life for the eagles, they begin to seek their mates to prepare for the next generation of eagles. The female eagle will challenge a potential suitor, to a flight of skills and ability to hunt and this is referred to as the Eagle Dance. The purpose of the Eagle Dance is to select a mate that will be able to provide while she nests and cares for the eggs before they hatch

Ayāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	NtsokTsikāw	NistokTsikāw	NēwokTsikāw	Niyānano kTsikāw	Nikotwāso kTsikāw

Niskipīsim



MARCH (The Goose Moon)

March is the return of spring, the return of new life. It was the geese that flew in from the south that brought new life to the land. The Nehiyaw people would raise their arms and hands in gratitude for the life they were receiving with the arrival of the geese. The land will give one last storm in this moon, this is called kīwētīn, and the snow starts to melt.



Ayāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	NṬsokṬsikāw	NiṣtokṬsikāw	NēwokṬsikāw	Niyānano kTsikāw	Nikotwāso kTsikāw

Pāskāwihowip̄sim

JUNE (The Hatching Moon)

The eggs start to hatch for the birds and waterfowl. The birth of the hatchlings marks another significant transition to new life. The Nehiyaw people busy themselves preparing for the summer ceremonies to celebrate life and blessings from the Creator.

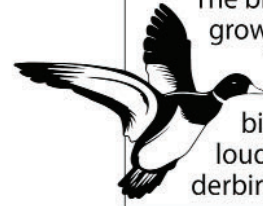


Ayāmihēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmihēwo kTsikāw	NtsokTsikāw	NistokTsikāw	NēwokTsikāw	Niyānano kTsikāw	Nikotwāso kTsikāw

Ōhpahowip̄sim

AUGUST (The Flying Up Moon)

The birds and waterfowl are ready to fly, they have grown their new feathers and are ready for flight. Young birds strengthen their wings for the long flight south. Even the young Thunderbirds take flight during this moon, we have our loudest thunderstorms, because the young Thunderbirds can not control their sounds yet.



Ayāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	NtsokTsikāw	NistokTsikāw	NēwokTsikāw	Niyānano kTsikāw	Nikotwāso kTsikāw

Nōcīhitōwipīsim



SEPTEMBER (The Mating Moon)

This moon marks the life cycle of the moose, deer and elk as they move into rutting season. They are travelling across the land in search of a mate and can travel great distances seeking one. Moose calling was a desired skill for hunters.

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Pimihāwipīsim



OCTOBER (The Migrating Moon)
The birds are preparing to fly south for the season and start to gather into larger flocks. A large number and wide variety of the birds can be seen flying in the skies. Another term used is Kaskitinawipīsim and this marks the snapping of trees in the forest as the colder temperatures set in.

Ayāmihēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmihēwo kTsikāw	NtsokTsikāw	NistokTsikāw	NēwokTsikāw	Niyānano kTsikāw	Nikoṭwāso kTsikāw

Ihkopiwip̄sim



NOVEMBER (The Frost Moon)

In this moon, the frost is appearing on the land. The frost prepares the plant life for the winter slumber. Grasses and trees are covered in frost. The frost prepares the seeds by layering them with frost that will act as a moisture barrier and ready them for growth in the spring.

Ayāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	NtsokTsikāw	NistokTsikāw	NēwokTsikāw	Niyānano kTsikāw	Nikotwāso kTsikāw

Pawācikināsīpīsim

DECEMBER (The Frost Exploding Moon)

The cold sets in deeper and the trees are covered with thicker frost. The Elders begin teaching with the sacred creation stories, teaching values through story and song.



Ayāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	Pōni-āyāmiḥēwo kTsikāw	NtsokTsikāw	NistokTsikāw	NēwokTsikāw	Niyānano kTsikāw	Nikoṭwāso kTsikāw