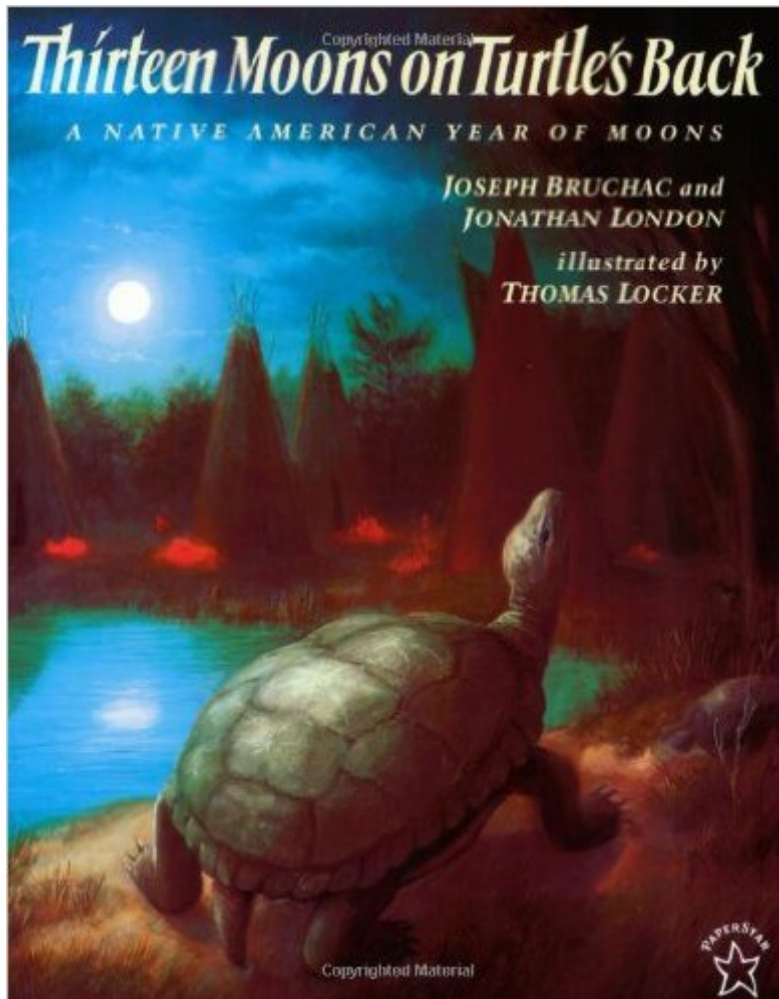


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# Thirteen Moons On Turtle's Back: A Native American Year Of Moons



## Synopsis

"Unusual and intelligent...An exemplary introduction to Native American culture with its emphasis on the importance of nature." — Publishers Weekly  
In Native American legend, 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. "This book instills a spiritual respect for our land and an appreciation for the people who were its first caring guardians."  
— American Bookseller  
A Notable Children's Trade Book in the Language Arts  
An IRA Teacher's Choice Book  
A Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 960 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (August 25, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698115848

ISBN-13: 978-0698115842

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #57,279 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > United States #47 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #54 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent work of Native American children's literature. Joseph Bruchac is a well-known Abenaki story-teller who profiles in this book the thirteen moons of the year, and profiles for each moon what is important about that season to different Native Nations. The artwork is a beautiful compliment to the story. If you are looking for a solid and sensitive look at inter-tribal stories for children, this is a great place to start!

Beautiful illustrations and simple prose make this a quietly poetic and aesthetically pleasing selection to read to kids three years old and up. A great introduction to the Native American concept of the seasons of the year and the close and personal relationship with all of Nature.

I was fortunate to hear the author speak in the early 90s in my hometown of Syracuse, NY. He is an engaging storyteller. It was then that I discovered his book. The artwork in this edition is rich and appealing. The vignettes of each moon, combined with the illustrations, make an appealing canvas for young and/or exploring minds.

The only thing that could have made this book better would be the listing of Moon names of some of the different tribes, in a glossary or chart at the back of the book. You will find teaching ideas that go with this book on line. More advanced students can look up the moon names of some of the other tribes on their own, for the tribes in the area they live. These names vary because the moons are named for the things happening in each different geographical region the tribe is living in. I highly recommend this book as a teaching tool. ( I have taught 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. ) You may wish to check the vocabulary level, before having students try this book on their own, but there is still a great deal you can do with this book, by just reading it to them.

The students in my Sunday Unitarian-Universalist Youth Program have been reading this book, one moon at a time. They now have a "hook" in the significance of the thirteen parts of a turtle shell. We are now moving from the Sleeping Bear into the spring moons. Excellent teaching tool.

Recommended for all ages.

Beautiful illustrations, beautiful stories. Keeping the ancient wisdom moving into the hands and hearts of our children. Cross-cultural, this book offers stories from different American Indian cultures about the phases of the moon. I want my children to have a deeper understanding of how as human beings we are interconnected with All Life. Including the moon, which is so interesting and visible to children. This book helps bring a little soul and magic in to my children's thinking about the night sky and the moon.

I purchased this for a baby shower gift, along with some handmade baby/toddler moccasins from the Huron Nation in Canada. If you are looking for some truly American literature, this chapter book for children (and adults!) is awesome. Native American (First Nations in Canada) frequently named

the months of the year (figured by moon phases) for the events from that time period of each moon phase. Thus, a month that had a lot of ice storms and ice on the trees' branches may, in some groups, be called "Moon of Crackling Trees," and so on. The names did differ by group, influenced by local cultures and by geography. What this book does is to sample the names of the moons by different groups (one group's name per moon phase) and explain the reasons why a specific group named that moon phase by a particular name. The fun of this book is interest people to explore the full range of names each of the Native Groups gave the moons - this book is a start. It will stimulate people to learn more about each of the Nations/Tribes featured in this book. The Native groups were all diverse, spoke different languages, and had different cultures, so this is a great introduction! The artwork is very good. Turtle in some Native cultures, was believed to carry the earth on her back, hence the name of the book. Wonderful, fun and interesting book - I recommend it!

I bought this book for my son's Christmas present as we needed more Native American written books in our library. Jo Bruchac is one of the best children's authors I know. This book has beautiful illustrations and wonderful stories about each moon cycle. I just wish I knew which moon cycle was which, so that we could identify them.

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