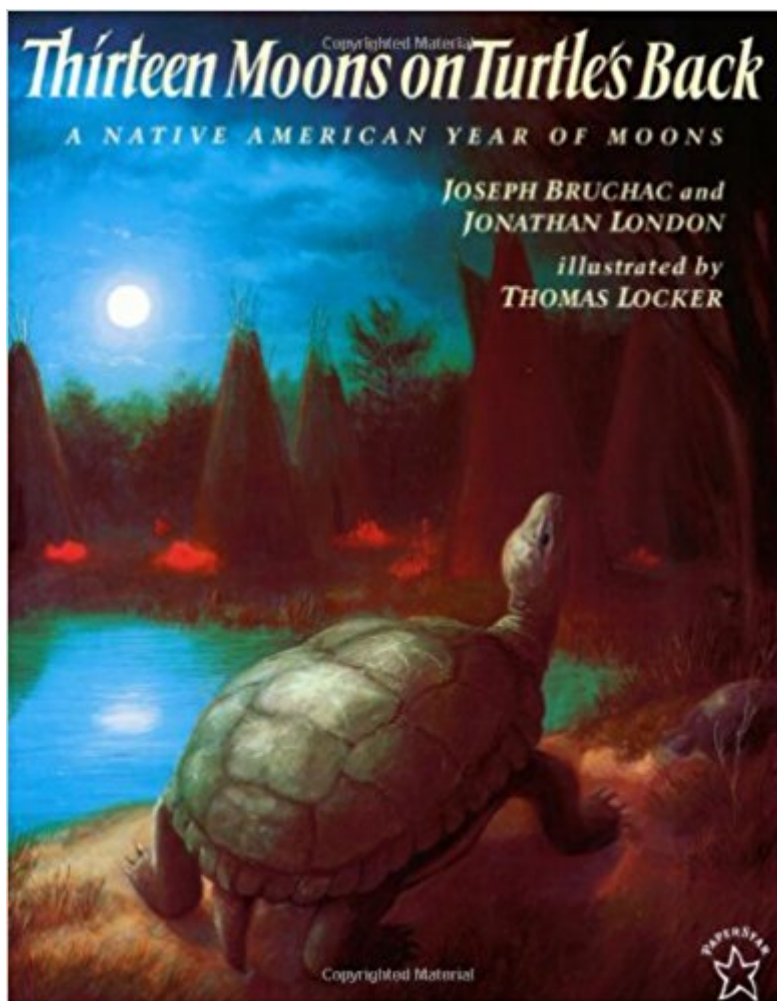


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Thirteen Moons On Turtle's Back: A Native American Year Of Moons



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: 840 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10.2 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #45,497 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > United States #35 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #40 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

To many Native Americans, the 13 cycles of the moon represent the changing seasons and the passage of time. Each moon has its own special name that, while varying among the tribal nations, is consistent with the legend that the 13 scales on Old Turtle's back hold the key to these moons. The authors present 13 poems that take readers through the year, from the "Moon of Popping Trees"—when the "cottonwoods crack with frost"—to the "Big Moon" of the Abenakis. The book's effective design consists of verses in vertical columns at the left of each spread, with the remainder

occupied by Locker's (Family Farm ; Catskill Eagle) typically lush artwork. His oil paintings are eye-catching in their depth of color reflecting dramatic seasonal changes. Trees, skies and woodland creatures are rendered in vivid hues that combine to produce an enthralling vision. This unusual and intelligent book is an exemplary introduction to Native American culture with its emphasis on the importance of nature. All ages. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

--This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Kindergarten-Grade 4-- The book opens with an Abenaki storyteller explaining to his grandson that just as there are always 13 scales on "Old Turtle's back," there are 13 moons in a year, each of which has a name and a story. The poetic tales and corresponding paintings that follow represent myths or legends of different Native American tribes. Although the language of these poems is not particularly memorable or childlike, it does evoke images and passes on some of the traditions of the native people and their closeness to the natural world. The cadence is that of an adult explaining things to a child. Both text and illustrations have a distancing effect on readers. Locker's large, dark paintings stand parallel to or in tandem with the poems but are not integral to them. They create a mood and capture portions of the text, encouraging viewers to look "at" rather than "into" these images. There is a sense of vastness in these paintings, and sometimes a harshness, but little of the lushness or the warmth of the land. Although the cover illustration of the turtle is inviting and the large format attractive, these are poems that will probably not entice most youngsters on their own. They can be appreciated, however, when presented by an adult and will be a welcome addition to units on Native American cultures. --Kay E. Vandergrift, School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

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.

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!

My grandson is on his way to becoming adopted into our family. He is from the Blackfoot tribe so I thought this would be a good book for him.

Superbly written. I read this to my students and now I have it a home to reference during each full moon. This monthly reading is becoming a tradition in my home.

Recommended by my daughter, a pre-school teacher.

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.

perfect for elementary lesson!

A little too old for my granddaughter, but she loved the pictures and will grow into it.

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