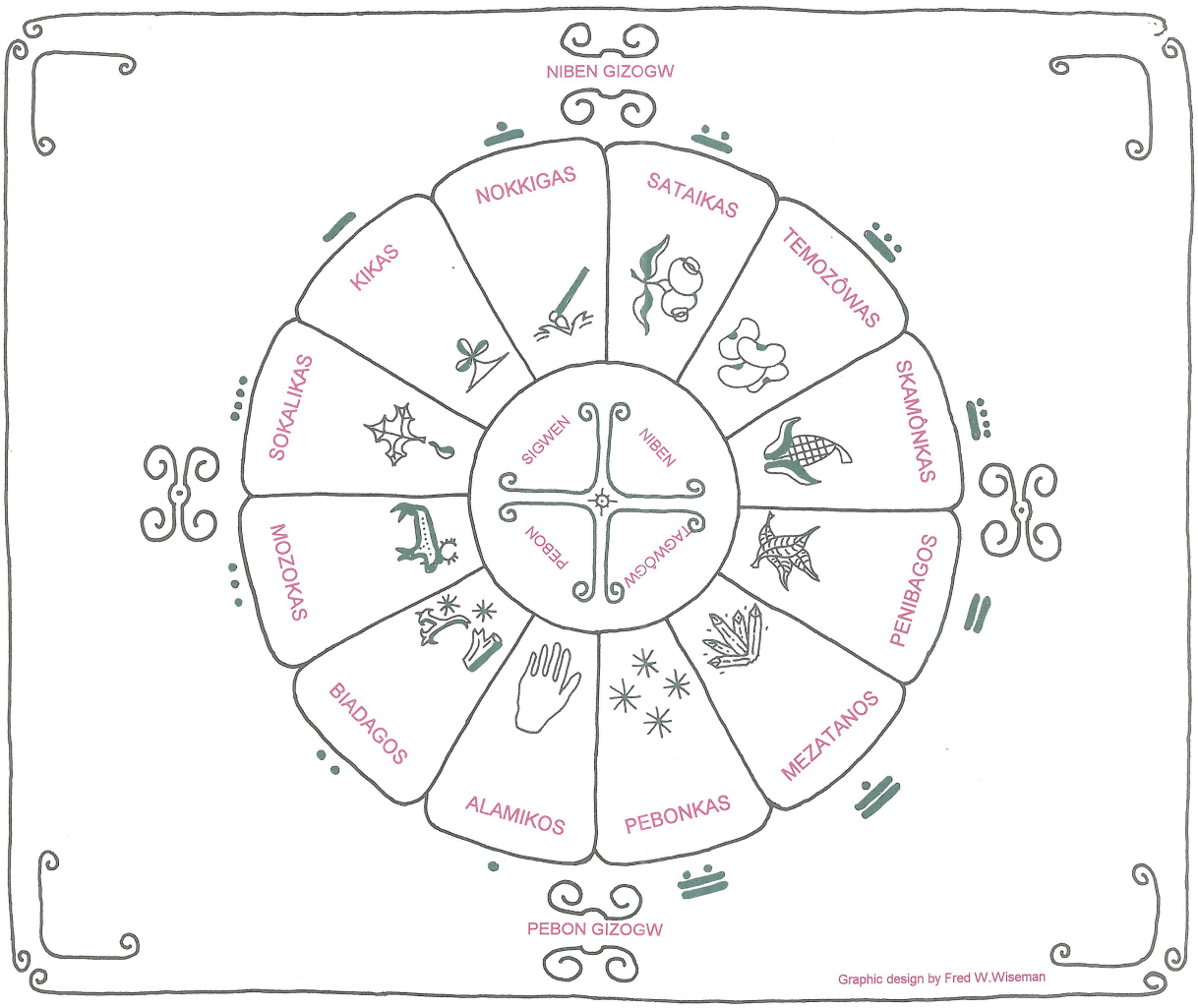
NEGWEJIGADEN

AN ABENAKI YEAR

The twelve month Western Abenaki lunar calendar is 354 days long, about eleven days shorter than the solar year. To correct for this, Abenaki fire keepers coordinate the beginning of *Alamikos*, the first moon of the Abenaki lunar new year with *Pebon gizogw*, the winter solstice of the 365 day solar year. To do this calendrical correlation, they add a thirteenth month every third year. If this is not done, their calendar would fall behind the seasons by 11 days each solar year. Once or twice a century, a minor correction is necessary, so the inserted moon is added in a second rather than a third year.



The names of the lunar months or "Moons" vary from place to place in *Wôbanakik.* Among the inland farming Abenaki, spring and summer month names tend to be more along agricultural lines, while along the coast, cycles of fish and bird mating and migration name the months. Local variations in climate affect month names as well. Among the Western Abenaki and their Penobscot relatives, Moon number eight is the berry moon, while among the more northerly Micmac people, it is one moon later.

MONTH		INLAND ABENAKI	COASTAL ABENAKI	
Moon	Month	Western Abenaki Name	Penobscot Name	Micmac Name
o	January	Greetings moon	Little food moon	Frost fish moon
oo	February	Bough shed moon	Hoarfrost moon	Snow-blind moon
ooo	March	Moose hunter	Laying egg moon	Spawning moon
oooo	April	Sugar maker moon	Moon of smelts	Egg laying moon
—	May	Planting moon	Planting moon	Frog croaking moon
— o	June	Hoeing moon	Hoeing moon	Summer moon
— oo	July	Blueberry moon	Ripe berry moon	Birds shed feather moon
— ooo	August	Harvest moon	White chub moon	Ripe berry moon
— oooo	September	Corn maker moon	Rutting moon	Rutting moon
=	October	Falling leaf moon	Autumn moon	Animal fattening moon
= o	November	Ice former	Ice former	Ice former
= oo	December	Winter maker	Old moon	Winter moon

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