



# DAHITÁÁ

CRESSENT MOON EXPERIENCE  
BOOKLET



CREATED BY THE SAN CARLOS  
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**The Big Dipper tells us the seasons of the year**

**The Crescent Moon tells us the months of the year**

**The Moon tells us the week**

**The Sun tells us the days and the time of day**

**The Apache People were taught to watch the skies  
for guidance, directions, and time.**



**When the moon turns up right this is the beginning of the months blessings. You will see the changes and what they represent as the moon tips.**



**When the moon looks like this, it is filling up with knowledge, or water which represents blessings.**



**When the moon turns up right, they say it pours out blessings, which is why we do the crescent moon run and prayers every month. Other elders have said this is the eye of Usen, who looks down on us to see what we are showing him. It is our time for self-reflection on how we are using our blessings. In the past, this is why families or elders would gather to pray for the young and have them run in the direction of the Crescent Moon, so that blessings would pour upon them.**



**The Southern Cross represents your location and is always visible in the Southern Sky. It is often taught to the Apache People to find their way. In the old days, you would often see the Apache ladies with four-tattooed points on their faces to represent the four directions of the Southern Cross because they were the teachers of the children and families. The Southern Cross identified them as the "direction to follow."**

**THE HAND IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT REMINDS  
US OF THE STEPS OF LEARNING APACHE VALUES**



**Your Pinky stands for Brother Sister**

**Ring Finger Stands for Friendship**

**Middle Finger stands for Kindness**

**Your index finger stands for Politeness**

**Your thumb stands for the Creator -**

**Without your thumb it makes it hard to do things  
the same way all things are done with the Creator**

**- Usen**

**FOUR GIFTS GIVEN TO HUMAN BEINGS BY**  
**USEN - CREATOR**



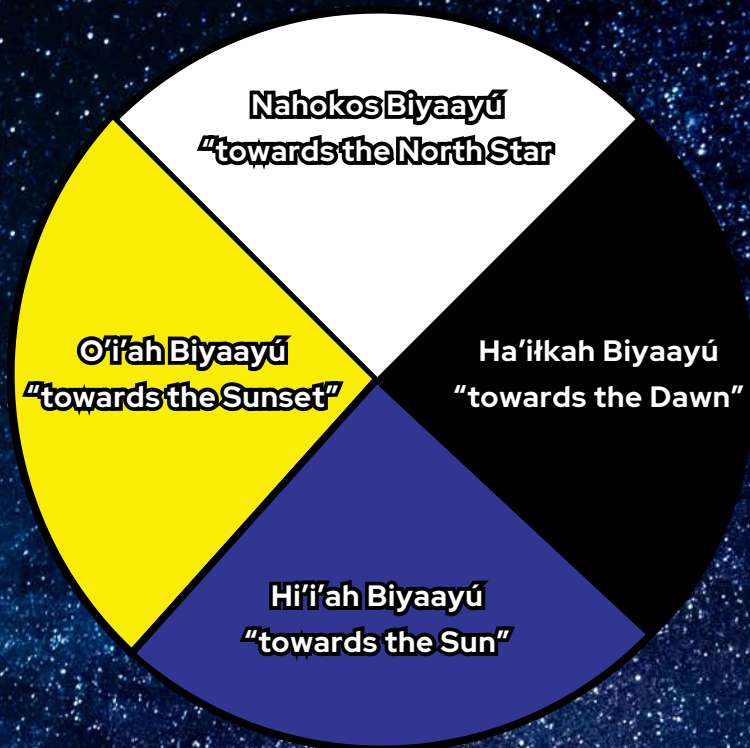
**Your Pinky, the red man was given the gift of  
feeling**

**Ring Finger, the yellow man was given the gift of  
work**

**Middle Finger, the black man was given the gift of  
talk**

**Your index finger, the white man was given the gift  
of mind**

**Your thumb, Usen gave these powers to man so  
they could work together.**



**East: Black - Stands for the Earth & Minerals**

**South: Blue/Green - Stands for All living things, plants, vegetation & water**

**West: Yellow - Stands for the Sun**

**North -: White - Stands for Atmosphere/Air we Breathe**

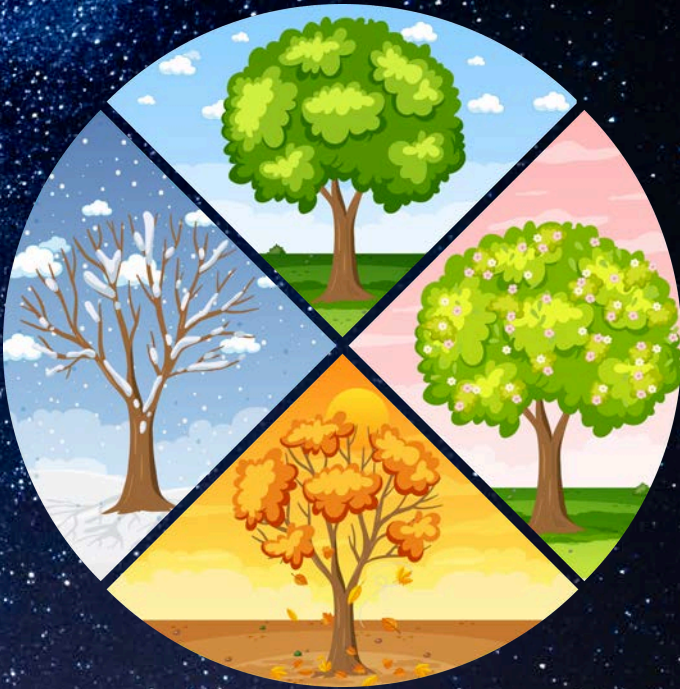


**When you put your hands together like the image above, you can see a crescent moon line in the center of your hand.**

**As you see this, you are reminded of your cups of water full of blessings and what you can do with your hands for others.**

# Seasons

Summer - Shii



Spring -  
Daa

Winter -  
Hai

Autum - Ak'ee

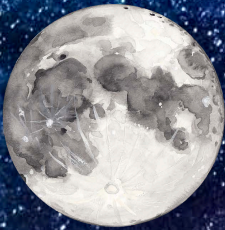
# Phases of the Moon



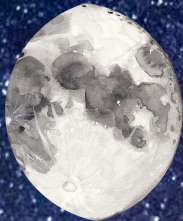
**Dahitaa ("Hangs There")**



**Tl'e'gona'ai Hilniyu  
("Moon Halfway There")**



**Tl'e'gona'ai  
Nchaa  
("Large Moon")**



**Tl'e'gona'ai Hilniyu  
("Moon Halfway There")**



**Chogthyeet  
("Complete Darkness")**

**Through the presentations at the Crescent Moon, we have gained insight into various aspects of our rich Apache Culture. The key message we wish to convey is that in life, we need to learn to work together, discover our unique gifts, and strive for the betterment of all those in our families and those we encounter.**

**In our Apache Way of Life, we are taught that individual success is meaningless and selfish, but doing good for others is the way Apache People survive and are valued.**

**These teachings are how our legacy remains, and our stories are remembered.**

**It is also the way our children find meaning in their lives and appreciate more, wonder more, and become great human beings who take their place in the world and do great things.**

**Special Thanks to all who helped make this  
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