

Lowan – Winter

First snowfall _____
First snow that sticks _____
First temperature below zero _____
First ice storm/unusual storm _____
First day above freezing (32F) _____
What birds are still here _____
Other observations for **Lowan** – Winter _____



GISCHUCH – time of or time when = Month

GENDOWEWAGAN – Week

GISCHUIKE – by day Getteminâk

Wuskén Gachtin (Greetings of the New Year)

Siquon – Spring

Tsqali Gischuch – Time in which the frogs begin to sing

Mechoammawi Gischuch – Time when the shad fish return

Corn Planting

Kitschinipen – Summer

Tending the garden

Jagatamoewi Gischuch – Time of the honey bee

Winaminge – Time of the Roasting Ears of Corn

Tachquoak – Fall

Kilchilachquoak – Autumn – Time of the Grasshoppers

Pooxit – Time of the falling leaves

Lowan – Winter

Winigischuch – Time of the falling snows

Mechakhokque – When the cold makes the trees crack

Anixi Gischuch – Time when the ground squirrels run



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PHENOLOGY—Timing of recurring seasonal events in plants and animals. The timing is a function of environmental conditions.

When the Shadbush Blooms, is a full color book based on the “**cycle of the seasons**” which depicts both traditional and modern Lenape Lenni Lenape (Len-na Len-NAW-pay) family life. Our book is online on the Shadbush page at lenapeprograms.info. Books available as a signed and dedicated copy through lenapeprograms.info. ***When the Shadbush Blooms*** is designed to be read and seen by the children, it is good for young children, geared for learning to read and ESL pupils and it has parent/teacher pages with Lenape words, meanings and pronunciation guide. In addition, we have a follow up page on another page on our site and we offer Teacher/Parent & Children’s page links.

Seasonality has to do with variations in environmental factors that occur at specific intervals that span a year. Seasonal observations are also important to record from year to year, as they help determine trends in things such as the average ice-on or ice-out dates on lakes, the date of the first snowfall, or the first thunderstorm of the year. The Lenape calendar reflects these factors.

Phenology is the study of the timing of biological events throughout the year—when the maple sap starts running, ruffed grouse begins drumming, or blueberries ripen. Phenology is a useful way to monitor possible long-term trends in environmental conditions, such as a changing climate. **Seasonality** is related to phenology, but has less to do with biology. Many people jot down observations on their own calendars, and some have been keeping **phenological or seasonal records for decades!** This information can be useful for scientists trying to gain a better understanding of which species are more or less able to adapt to environmental changes over time.

The Lenape people had all of nature as a calendar!

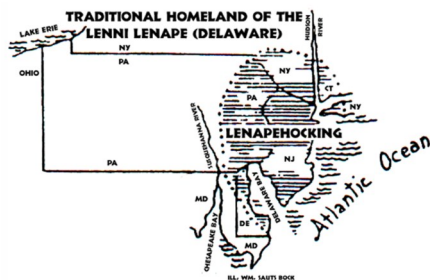
The Lenape year is a spiral not linear like your calendar, so it goes from Spring to Spring and the “months” can vary, being influenced by the climate/environment.

Not only could they tell the seasons, as you do today: crocus in the spring, leaves falling off the trees and animal migrations in the fall, but other aspects as well. The shadbush (Juneberry bush or Serviceberry bush) was a calendar. The flowers were a signal of the returning Shad fish, to the local waterways; the berries marked summer and their harvest and drying to prepare them for winter use was also important.

The Lenape calendar shows the approximate time with our present calendar. Since they used both the sun and the moon in their calendar they had approximately 11 or 13 months to our 12. The Lenape were called Delawares by the incoming settlers, as the English renamed the main river, **Lenapehanna** to “honor” Lord De la Warre. The Settlers and missionaries introduced a one day of worship concept to the Lenape people. Until then all days included prayers, and even after, as they Lenape could not understand why you should wait and give thanks only once in a period of time. In addition, they, like other Native people did not have “days of the week” as we presently use.

The **Trout Lily** marked the return of the Trout! This lily is also called the dog-toothed violet. “**Spring Peepers**” a small frog that loves marshes, also marked spring. Winter with its bone chilling cold that makes the trees crack and lose their limbs was also noted. As were the activities of the ground squirrels.

The Lenape people based their religious ceremonies around their seasonal activities, such as the Corn Planting Ceremony, Roasting Ears of Corn, Thanksgiving, and midwinter solstice. Valentine’s Day, Halloween and traditions and ceremonies associated with Christmas and Easter are **ALL European ideas**, with non-Christian beginnings.



2 neesh-shah

You live in the Lenape Homeland. What are you observing during the cycle of the seasons?

Siquon – Spring	Date/Location
First flowers on the trees	_____
First leaf buds bursting on trees	_____
First maple sap flowing	_____
End of maple sap season	_____
First plants (species)	_____
First fiddlehead ferns harvested	_____
First deer fawns	_____
First frogs calling (spring peepers)	_____
First fish spawning (what species)	_____
First arrivals of birds (what species)	_____
First mosquito	_____
First hummingbird	_____
First thunderstorm	_____
Other Observations for Siquon – Spring	_____
Kitschinipen – Summer	
First hummingbird	_____
First corn shoots	_____
First squash blossom	_____
First Ripe strawberries - Wtéhim	_____
First Ripe tomatoes or peppers	_____
First ripe shadberries	_____
First ripe peaches	_____
First chrysanthemums	_____
First apples to ripen - Apellís	_____
Tachquoak – Fall	
First leaves to change color (what species)	_____
First cold night with frost	_____
First birds to flock and leave	_____
First orange pumpkin—Geskundhack	_____
First apples to ripen	_____
First ripe ground cherries	_____
First cranberries - Pakimall	_____
Other observations for Tachquoak – Fall	_____
3 nah-Xah	