

LESSON 10 : Months and Seasons

The traditional Lakota people used the sun, moon and changes in surroundings as the contemporary Lakota people and non-Indians use the calendar.

Vocabulary

wi etu	the sun, the moon; a month expresses the concept of time
anpetu anpo anpa	day or daytime before sunrise sunshine
h'tayetu	fading time, evening

From sunrise to sunset is divided into :

wicokanyasni anpecokanya wicokanyasanpa	forenoon midday, noon afternoon
hanyetu hancokanya hanwi	night, night time midnight; when the first stars seen in the east are in the middle of the sky the moon

There are 12 to 13 months and four seasons. The four seasons are :

wi yetu, wetu	sun time; spring
bloketu	male time; potato time, summer
ptanyetu	changeable time; autumn
waniyetu	snow existing time; winter

Non traditional words :

oko	week
wiyawapi	calendar

Months

The following are the basic months which varied slightly from area to area.

There are two moons in the spring season which are

magaksica agli wi	ducks come together moon (April)
canwape ton wi	tree leaves potent moon (May)

There are four moons in the summer season which are

tinsila wi	wild turnip moon (June)
canpa sapa wi	black choke cherry moon (July)
kanta sa wi	red plums moon (August)
canwape gi wi	tree leaves turn yellow moon (September)

There are two moons in the autumn season :

canwapekasna wi	tree leaves shaken off moon (October)
waniyetu wi	snow exists time moon (November)

There are either four or five moons in the winter season which are

wanicokan wi	snow exists, middle moon (December)
tehi wi	hardship moon (January)
wicata wi	raccoon moon, dead moon (February)
istawicayazan wi	eyes sore moon (March)
tanin sni wi	discernible not moon, sometimes appeared and sometimes didn't and no one could tell for certain until the seasons showed that it had appeared.

Many believed that the year began with the first moon of the first season which ordinarily was when the ducks returned, but if there was an indiscernible moon, then this was when the year began. The winter season completed the year; therefore, a winter meant a complete year.

Exercises

1. Wiyawapi kin imahel oko topa There are four weeks in a month.
ye/yelo.
2. Oko kin imahel anpetu šakowin There are seven days in a week
ye/yelo.

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| 3. Wiyawapi kin imahel anpetu tona he/hwo? | How many days are there in a month? |
| Wiyawapi kin imahel hunh' anpetu wikcemna yamni na hunh' wikcemna nupa sam saglogan ye/yelo. | Some of the months have 30 days, and 31 days, and one has 28 days. |
| 4. Waniyetu wi kin imahel anpetu wikcemna yamni sam waniji ye/yelo. | There are 31 days in December. |
| 5. Canwape gi wi kin imahel anpetu tona he/hwo? | How many days are in September? |
| Canwapi gi wi kin imahel anpetu wikcemna yamni ye/yelo. | There are 30 days in the month of September . |
| 6. Le omaka kin tohanl wayawa yin kta he /hwo? | This year what month will he/she go to school? |
| Le omaka kin kanta sa wi imahel wayawa yin kte ye/yelo. | This year he/she will go to school in August. |
| 7. Tohanyan wayawa un kta he/hwo? | How long will he/she be in school? |
| Wi napcinyunka wayawa un kte ye/yelo. | He/she will be in school for nine months. |
| 8. Le omaka kin tohan wayawa iglustan kta he/hwo? | When will he/she finish school this year? |
| Le omaka kin canwapeton wi hehan wayawa iglustan kte ye/yelo. | This year he/she will finish school in May. |
| 9. Ben taku wi kin gli kta he/hwo? | What month will Ben arrive home? |
| Ben canwapekasna wi kin gli kte ye/yelo? | In October, Ben will come home. |
| 10. Le taku wi he/hwo?
Le _____ ye/yelo. | What month is this?
This is _____. |
| 11. Owayawa kin taku wi iyotakapi he/hwo?
Owayawa kin kanta sa wi | What month will school start?
School will start in August. |

imahel iyotakapi kte ye/yelo?

12. Owayawa kin tohanyan
inyanka kta he/hwo?

How long will the school run?

Owayawa kin wi napcinyunka
inyanka kte ye/yelo?

The school will run for nine months.

13. Bloketu asnikiyapi kin wi yamni
so?

Summer vacation is three months,
isn't it?

Bloketu asnikiyapi kin wi yamni,
TinpsilaWi, na Canpasapa Wi,
na Kanta Sa Wi ye/yelo.

Summer vacation is June, July and
August.

14. Tohanl asniyakiyin kta he/hwo?

When do you have your vacation?

Ptanyetu kin asniwakiyin kte
ye/yelo.

I will have my vacation in the fall.

Tohanl asnikiyapi kta he/hwo?

When will they have their vacation?

15. Tohan Wiwanyang Wacipi
he/hwo?

When will they Sun Dance?

Bloketu cokanya kin
Wacipi kte ye/yelo.

They will have the Sun Dance
in Winwanyang mid-summer.

16. Wetu kin yahi kta he/hwo?
Han, wetu kin wahi kte ye/yelo.

Will you come in the spring?
Yes, I will come in the spring.

Additional Vocabulary

osni
okate
wahinhe
magaju

cold
hot
snowing
rain

maste
fate
wakinyan agli
wasuhinhe

sunshine, sunny
wind, windy
thunderstorm
hailing

iwoblu
wayawa
hunh

blizzard
to attend school
some

Weather

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Wahinhe ye/yelo. | It is snowing. |
| Magaju ye/yelo. | It is raining. |
| Lila tate ye/yelo. | It is very windy. |
| Maste ye/yelo. | It is sunny. |
| Wakinyan agli ye/yelo. | It is a thunderstorm. |
| Wasuhinhe ye/yelo. | It is hailing. |
| Okate ye/yelo. | It is hot. |
| Osni ye/yelo. | It is cold. |

Exercises that deal with the Weather

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|---|--|
| 1. Anpetu Tokaheya hehan wakinyan agli ye/yelo. | There was a thunderstorm on Monday. |
| _____ hehan wakiyan agli ye/yelo. | There was a thunderstorm on _____. |
| 2. Hanhepi lila tate ye/yelo. | It was very windy last night. |
| _____ ye/yelo. | It was _____. |
| 3. Hinhanni wahinhe ye/yelo. | This morning it was snowing. |
| _____ ye/yelo. | This _____ it was _____. |
| 4. Magaju hehan wagli ye/yelo. | I came back when it was raining. |
| _____ hehan _____ ye/yelo. | _____ when it was _____. |
| 5. Le omaka kin ota wasuhinhe ye/yelo. | This year there are lots of hail storms. |
| Le omaka kin _____ ye/yelo. | This year there are _____. |
| 6. Lila okate hehan hipi ye/yelo. | They came when it was very hot. |
| _____ hehan _____ ye/yelo. | _____ when it was _____. |
| 7. Tate na okate ye/yelo. | It is windy and hot. |
| _____ na _____ ye/yelo. | It is _____ and _____. |

With this exercise you may go back and fill in the blanks using the given vocabulary.

8. Lehanl anpetu tokeca he/hwo? What kind of a day is it?

Anpetu maste ye/yelo. It is a sunny day.

9. Lehanl anpetu tokeca he/hwo? What kind of a day it it?

Anpetu waste ye/yelo. It is a good day.

10. Lehanl anpetu tokeca he/hwo? What kind of day is it?

Lehanl _____ ye/yelo. Now it is _____.

This is the conclusion of Lesson 10. If you feel you haven't mastered the material, you may stop the tape and go back to the beginning of the lesson. Repeat until mastery of the material is achieved.