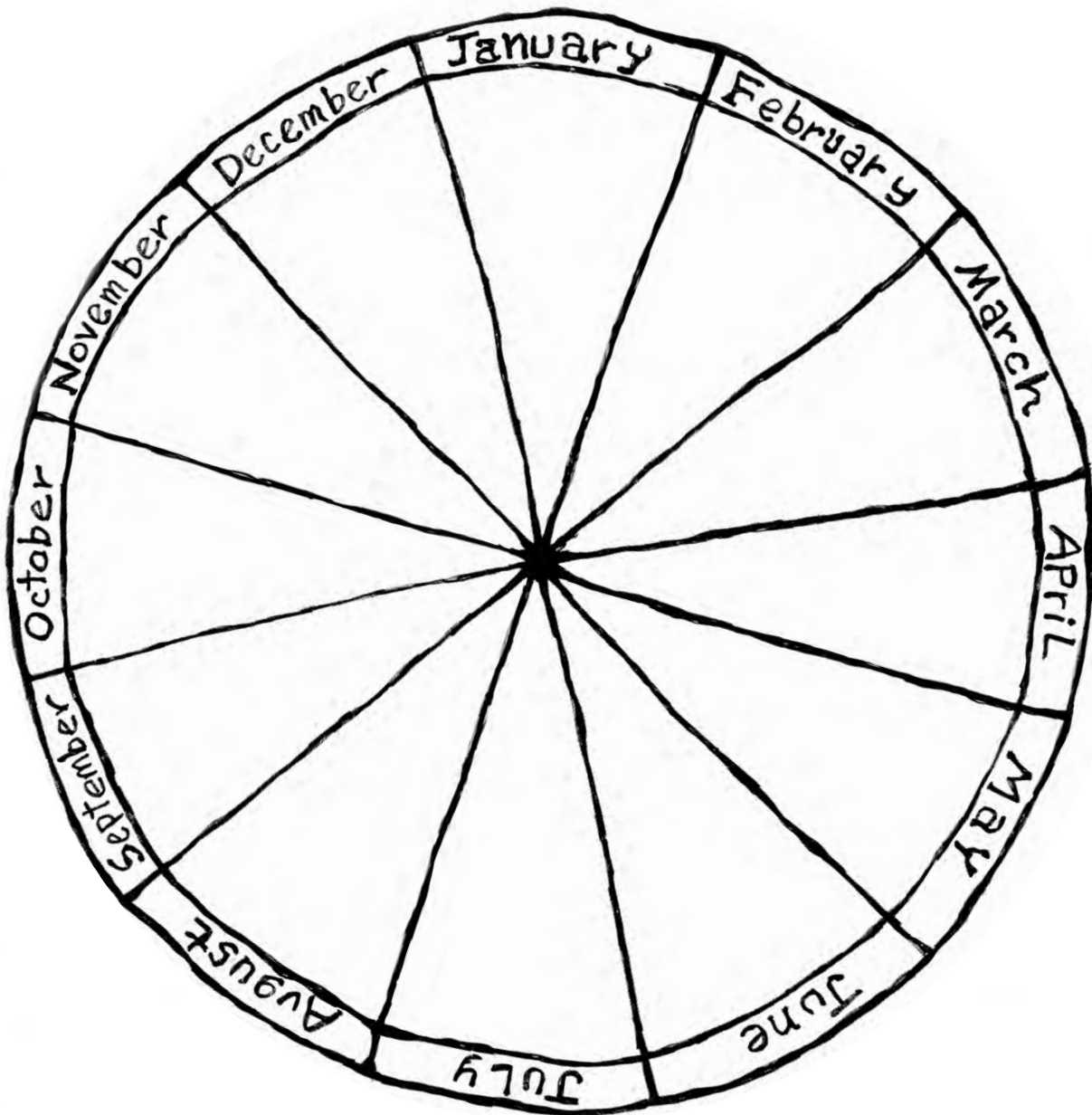
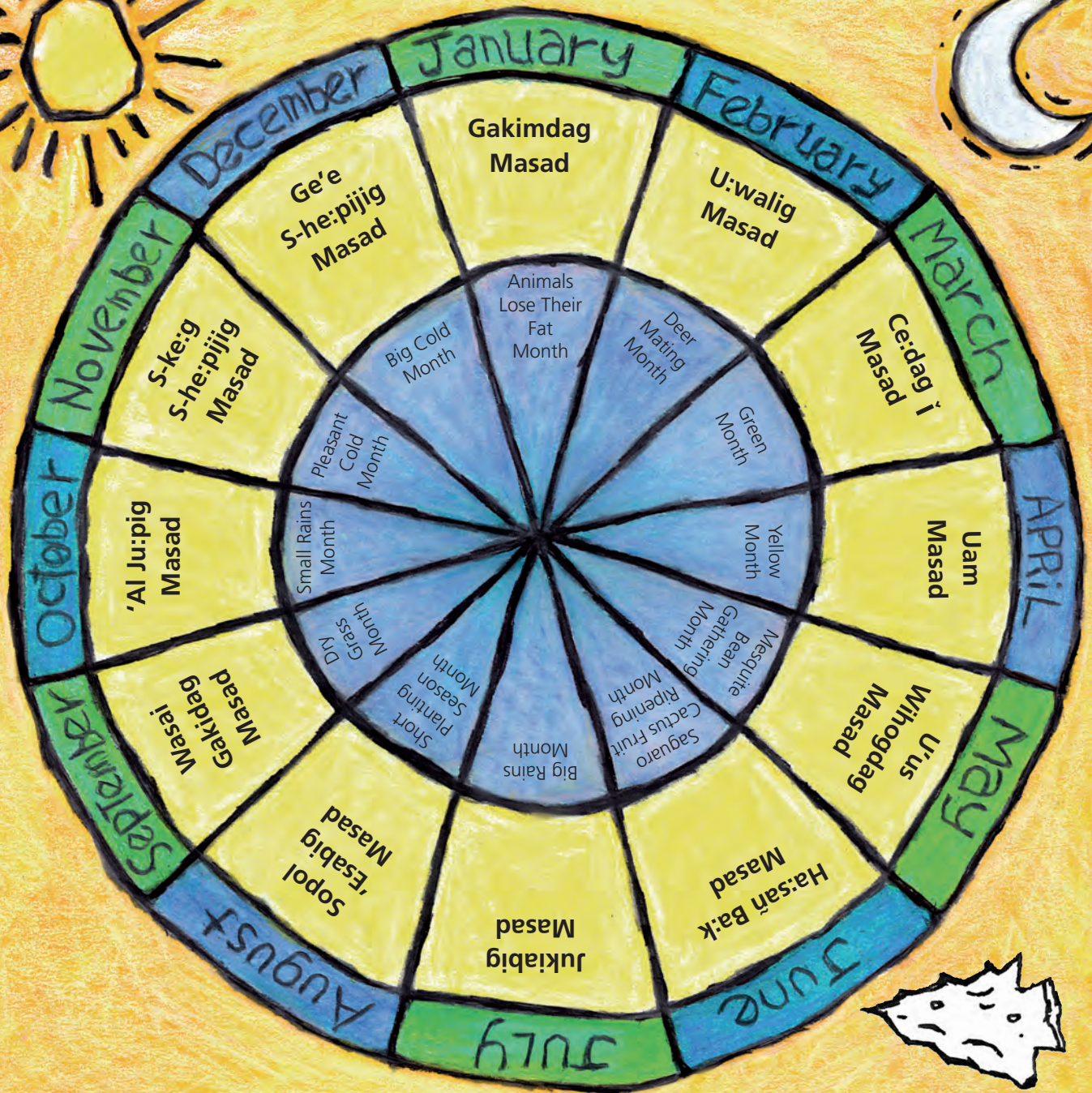


BACKYARD ANNUAL CYCLE



Some people think that no one could survive in the Sonoran Desert, but the O’odham understand this environment. Their way of life is deeply connected to their desert home. Survival depends upon knowing what will happen next in nature’s annual cycle. The O’odham name each moon cycle during the year for a change in nature. They celebrate sacred ceremonies related to these changes with speeches, songs, and dances.

Read the descriptions for the months in the O’odham annual cycle on the next page. Think about the changes during the year in the environment around your home. Write about or draw pictures for each month of your backyard annual cycle in the diagram at the top of this page. Mark when the annual cycle would begin for you.



The O'odham's annual cycle begins at the end of June when they pick saguaro cactus fruit. Its juice is used in a ceremony to bring monsoon rain. Rain replenishes plants, animals, and people that survived early summer's scorching heat. More moons follow.

The O'odham plant, then harvest, crops. The land becomes dry, then cold. Next, green plants and yellow flowers of spring give way to summer's heat.

Then the cycle begins again.

