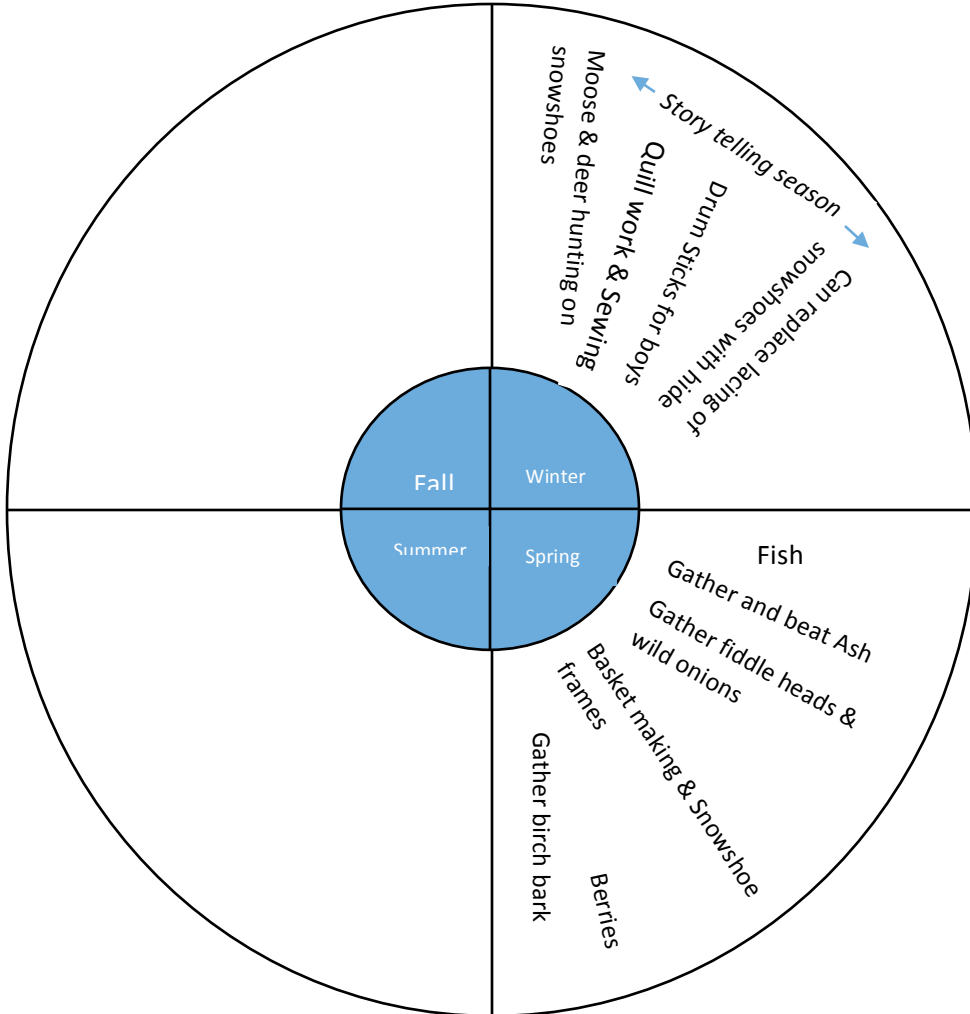


# Crafting Activities – Seasonal Survival

## Diagram of Cycle



## Crafting Activities – Seasonal Survival

### Notes to Diagram

The New Year (mid-winter) is followed by a time of looking back over winter and starting to utilize the hides from hunts for clothes and moccasins.

As winter is drawing to a close new baskets are made from last summer's birch bark and used to collect the tree saps. When the water runs in the trees, camps are full of activity as the sap is harvested and made into syrup and sugar. Children are running and men can be making new frames for snow shoes for the following winter.

The free flow of the water brings a time to harvest fish. Spring is also a time to gather fiddle heads and wild onions. Before the flies get bad, Ash is gathered and beaten for the making of baskets and new snow shoe frames.

The flow of the water and the blossoming of berries open up feelings, this leads us to the time of dance. The berries begin in spring with the heart berry, followed by the blueberry in June, and in mid-summer we are blessed with the strawberry. At the end of summer the thimble and blackberry are gathered. Fall season brings gathering of the Cranberry, after the first frost.

When the water is flowing through the trees and the wild rose is blooming with pedals falling, the white birch is ready to give its bark. Birch bark is gathered and stored for various uses throughout the year. With the open flow of water and the release of the bark it is the natural time to craft new canoes for travel.

In fall is a hunting season. The sinew from the animals' interior is twisted, collected, and in December before deep snow, it is used to lace the new snowshoe frames made in spring and relace old ones remaining in need of repair. When the snow is here moose and deer hunting continues on snow shoes.

Winter is a time for learning through storytelling and also a time to foster the development of storytelling within the children. It is a time to do boredom work, a time to visit, sew, do quill work, making of drum sticks for boys, and other tasks that can be accomplished in the cold season.