

What is the wheel of the year?

Norris walked into his sister's house carrying a large bag. Franklin let him in and tried to look in the bag. "No," said Norris "you can't see what is in the bag until after breakfast."

"But I have to know what is in there. Is it a present for me?" Franklin asked his uncle.

"No and yes," answered Norris "it is a present for you and the rest of your family. It is something that you hang on your wall, but everyone will like it."

"Can I just have a peek?" asked Franklin.

"Quit asking Franklin, I said we would all look at it after breakfast. Now, I'm hungry so let's go see what is cooked for us this morning." Norris said as he headed to the kitchen.

Franklin was so excited to open the gift he was hoping it would only take a few minutes for the food to be done and they could see what his uncle had brought in the bag. This was not the case though, it seemed to take forever for them to get done eating. Uncle Norris ate two plates and Franklin tried not to watch him eat, for what seemed like, forever.

When the table finally got cleared and everyone had migrated into the living room Norris said, "Is everyone ready to see what I brought for your wall?"

"Uncle Norris, you know I am. Quit making me wait!" Exclaimed Franklin.

"Ok, Ok, I am opening it up now," exclaimed Norris as he grabbed the bag from the floor and started putting his hand in. Everyone watched in great anticipation. He pulled out a round thing that looked like a wagon wheel.

"I like the color," said Franklin, "What is it?"

"Well Franklin, it is a Wheel of the Year. You can hang it above the altar in the hallway," Norris stated.

"What is it for?" asked Franklin.

"It's to help remind you when the Pagan holidays come. You can turn it as the holidays come, which one is next, and which one has just passed," explained Norris.

Activity-

- Get a piece of paper and pencil.
- Sit with your child back-to-back so you can't see one another. If you have 2 kids have them sit this way with you nearby.
- Make sure your child has the materials in their hand.

- Tell them they are going to draw their own wheel of the year but they have to follow directions to make it right. Make sure they know they can ask any questions they want but the older the child the less questions come.
- Inform them that you will explain how to draw a Wheel of the Year and they will follow along and draw it following the directions only.
- You will explain to them how to draw this wheel of the year precisely. You can draw one ahead of time for comparison if you want, it does make things a little more fun. Some ideas on how to explain it step by step is listed below.

Draw a large circle on the paper. Leave some space between your circle and the edge of the paper.

Draw a dot in the middle of the paper. This should also be the center of your circle. Next you will make an X but drawing it a certain way. You need to make sure the edges of the X go to all the edges of your big circle and the center is the dot in the middle of the large circle.

You will now need to draw a cross the same way. Make sure that the ends reach but don't go further than the large circle and the center is the dot in the middle of the large circle.

Go back to the each of the lines meet the large circle and draw them out just a little outside the big circle.

- Allow your child to look at their drawing. Does it look like the ones you can find online, in a book, or the one that you drew in advance. If not, take some time to work out why it didn't (this can be a fun process) and make necessary corrections. If so. then that's great you are good with directions and they are good at following them; plus, you guys have a great connection.
- When done help them write the names of each of the sabbats or high days on the spokes of the wheel they drew or fixed after drawing. Just let them know the names they have wrote, there are sections going into each one in depth in later in this series.
- Place their wheel of the year near your altar or in a special place. Make a routine of them going to it at a certain time of the day to review the names they have written on it to help with retention.