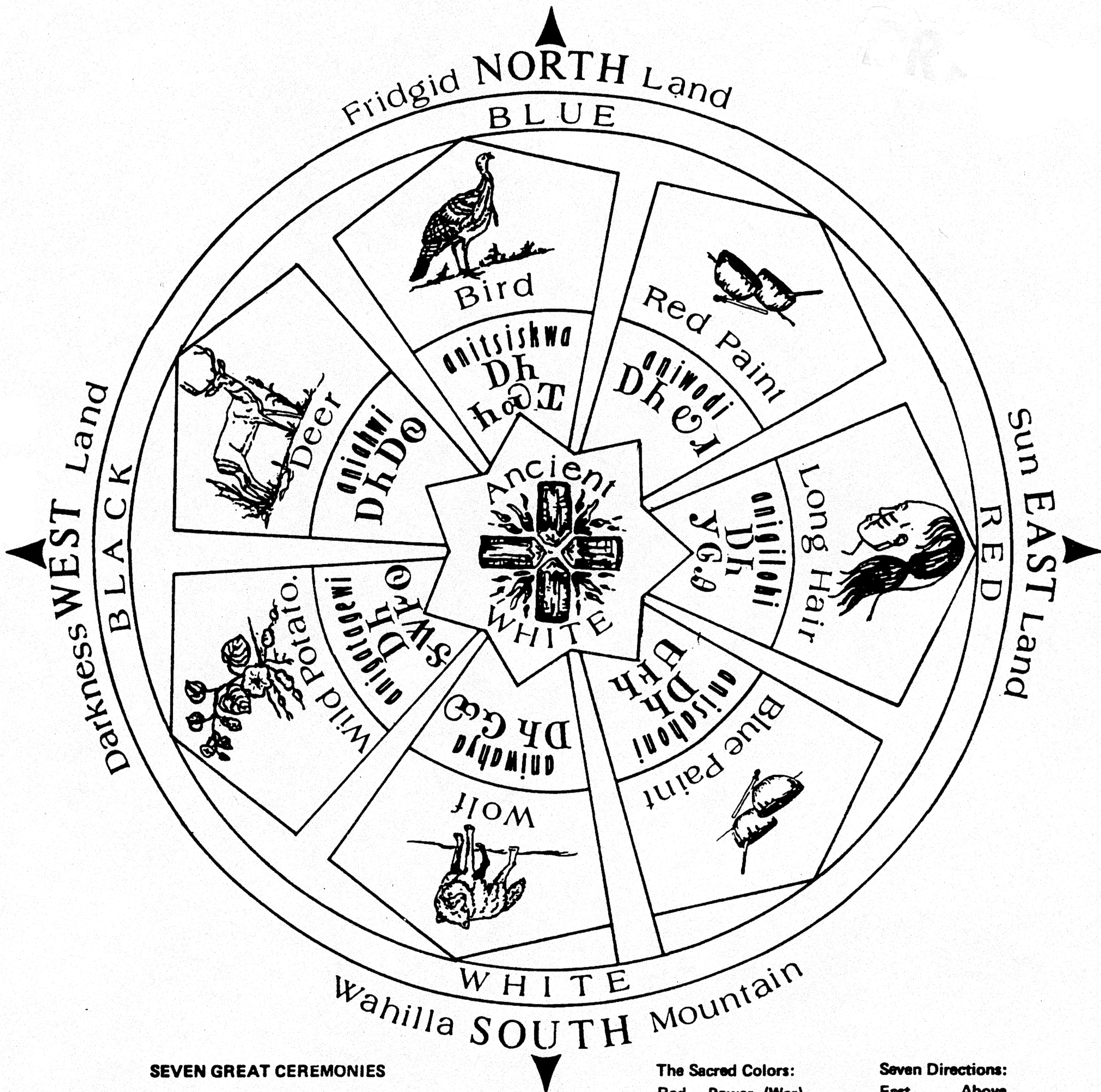


# Cherokee Clans & Sacred Symbols



## SEVEN GREAT CEREMONIES

1. Great New Moon Ceremony, the Cherokee New Year, New Moon in October, 2 days and nights.
2. Friends Make Ceremony, festival of reconciliation, purification and atonement, 10 days after the New Year, 5 days.
3. Bounding Bush Ceremony, offering of symbolic sacrifice, in December, 4 nights of the "pigeon dance."
4. First New Moon of Spring, a general assemblage at the capitol began the growing season of summer, New Moon of March, a day and 2 nights of dancing followed by 7 days of visiting and recreation ending by rekindling the fire.
5. Green Corn Ceremony, a festival of consecration, August at "roasting ears time," one night vigil and a day of feasting. The chiefs and advisors fasted for six prior to the feast and seven days after.
6. Ripe Corn Ceremony, celebrated final maturing of the crops, late September, four days of vigorous dancing by the men.
7. "UKU" Dance, consecration of the Principal White Chief of the capitol, every seven years replacing the Great New Moon in October, four days.

## The Sacred Colors:

- Red - Power (War)
- White - Peace
- Black - Death
- Blue - Defeat

## Seven Directions:

- |       |        |
|-------|--------|
| East  | Above  |
| South | Below  |
| North | Center |
| West  |        |

## Seven Sacred Fire Woods:

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Blackjack Oak | 4. White Sycamore |
| 2. Post Oak      | 5. Locust         |
| 3. Red Oak       | 6. Plum           |
|                  | 7. Redbud         |

## Seven Herbs for the Black Drink:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Cedar      | 4. Mistletoe  |
| 2. White Pine | 5. Greenbrier |
| 3. Hemlock    | 6. Heart Leaf |
|               | 7. Ginseng    |

The Fire - addressed as "Our Grandfather" or "Ancient White." Its powers were used against disease, protector of human life and its smoke the messenger to heaven.