

OSAGE SPIRITUALITY



Osage Culture Traveling Trunk Project





Traditional Osage Spirituality

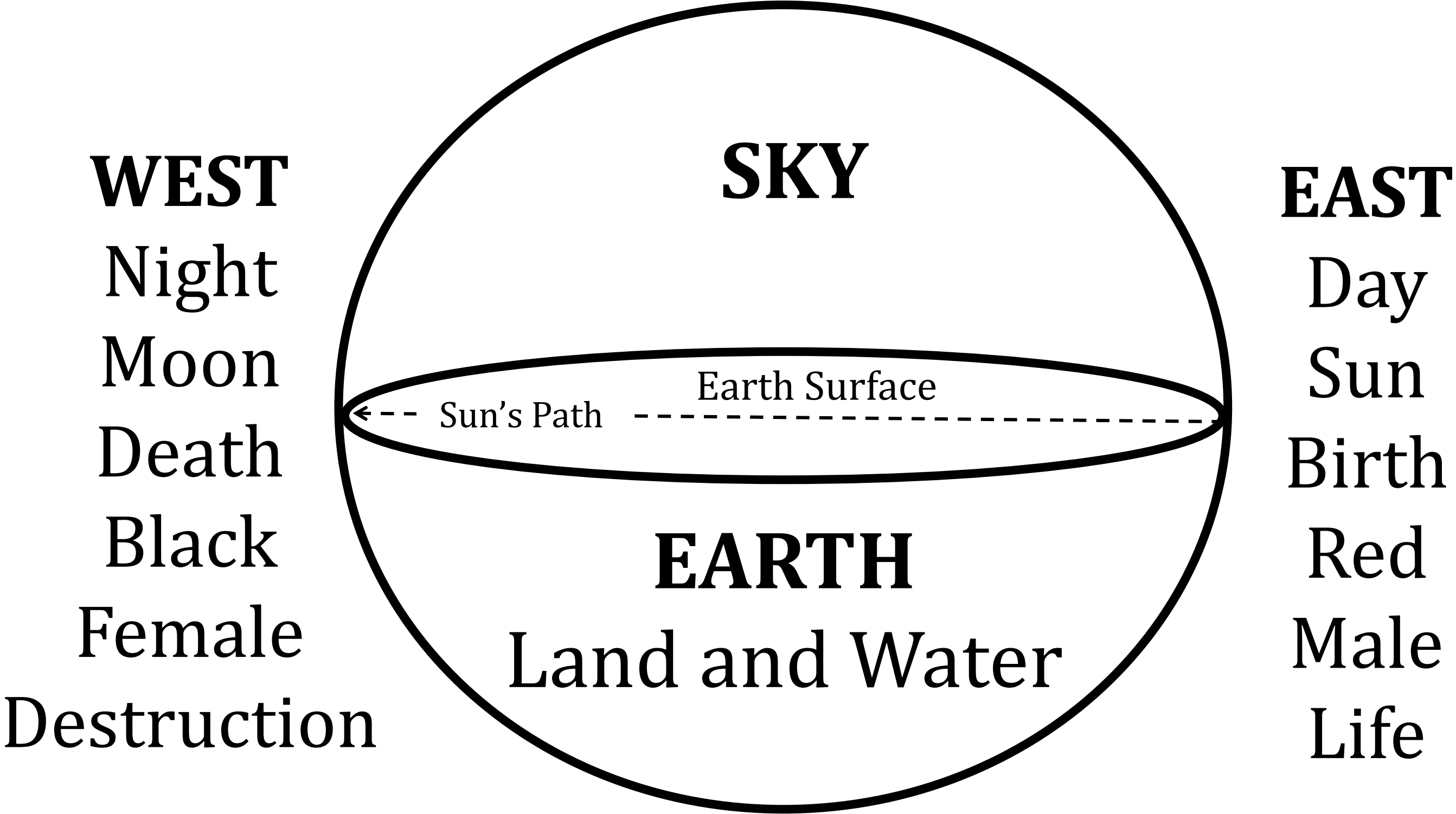
According to traditional Osage spirituality, every event such as the making of a pipe, the planting of a cornfield, or the naming of a child is sacred or special.

In Osage spirituality, everything in the universe is part of *Wah-kon-tah*, the all-controlling force. There is a visible living world and the invisible spiritual world of *Wah-kon-tah*. These worlds are connected; everything in the world of the living is also part of *Wah-kon-tah*.

Osage spirituality is related to Osage cosmology. A **cosmology** is the way a cultural group views the universe and the place of humans in that universe.

Osage cosmology divides the universe into sky and earth, and day and night. Every living creature in this system has a specific meaning and role.

In Osage cosmology, *East* is associated with the day, sun, birth, red, male, and life. *West* has opposite, complementary meanings.





Current Osage Spirituality

Today many Osages practice forms of Christianity while maintaining aspects of traditional Osage spirituality. Many Osages belong to Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, or Quaker Churches, as well as the Osage Native American Church (Peyote Church).

Osage Native American Church: A religious denomination that combines Christian and Osage religious beliefs and practices.

Osage Native American Church in the town of Hominy, on the Osage Reservation

The color photo, taken nearly 100 years after the black-and-white photo, shows continuity of this religion.



First Christian Church in the town of Pawhuska, on the Osage Reservation



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in the town of Pawhuska, on the Osage Reservation



Photo courtesy Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office



"The Osage Window" at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Osage Indian Baptist Church in the town of Pawhuska, on the Osage Reservation

