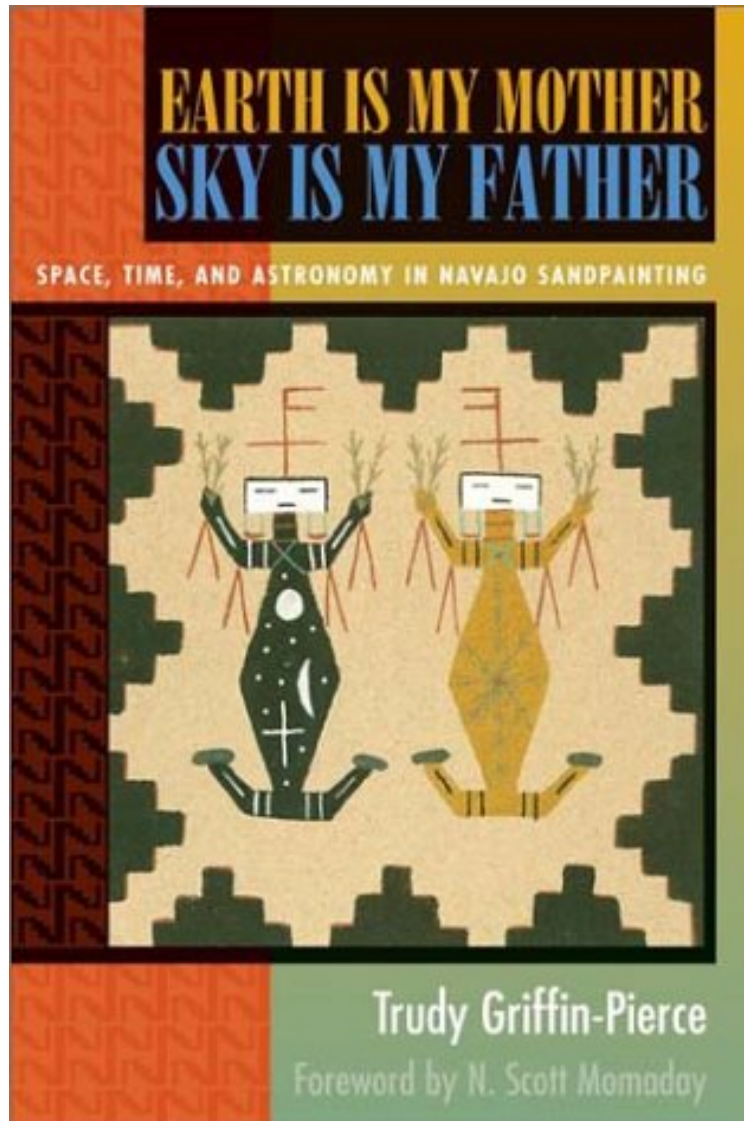


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Earth Is My Mother, Sky Is My Father: Space, Time, and Astronomy in Navajo Sandpainting

Trudy Griffin-Pierce

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and rituals without sounding ...By Hannah LerewI wasn't excited to read this at first (it was a book for an Anthropology book report) but I ended up really liking it. Griffin-Pierce is able to give a good perspective on the Navajo life and rituals without sounding too 'sciency'. Her writing is easy to read and she does a good job describing the process and art without using pictures (Navajo didn't want her to photograph the paintings). I would definitely recommend this book. I have since gained more interest in the subject and want to continue reading!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy ChristinaExcellent and insightful.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy J BullfrogExcellent book on Navaho Dine star knowledge

To the Navajo, sandpaintings are sacred, living entities that reflect the interconnectedness of all living beings--humans, plants, stars, animals, and mountains. This book, now available in paperback, explores the circularity of Navajo thought in sandpaintings, Navajo chantway myths, and stories reflected in the celestial constellations. Beautifully illustrated by the author, this well-documented book explores the spiritual world of the Navajo, their ceremonial practices, and their conceptions of time and stellar motion. Griffin-Pierce shows how the images of sacred sandpaintings not only communicate the temporal and spatial dimensions of the Navajo universe but also present, in visual form, Navajo ideas about relationships among nature, self, and society. "Griffin-Pierce's approach is highly original, bringing this material together in an innovative and creative manner while grounding it holistically within the context of Navajo world view."--M. Jane Young, author of *Signs from the Ancestors: Zuni Cultural Symbolism and Perceptions of Rock Art*

"A valuable introduction to the Navajo regard for the unchanging order of the sky."From the Inside FlapExplores the circularity of Navajo thought through studies of sandpaintings, chantway myths, and stories reflected in the constellations.From the Back CoverTo the Navajo, sandpaintings are sacred, living entities that reflect the interconnectedness of all living beings - humans, plants, stars, animals, and mountains. This book explores the circularity of Navajo thought in analyses of sandpaintings, Navajo chantway myths, and stories reflected in the celestial constellations. Beginning with an introduction to Navajo history and ethnography, the author explores the spiritual world of the Navajo, their ceremonial practices, and their conceptions of time and stellar motion. The Navajo depict the heavens in a group of sacred sandpaintings, and Griffin-Pierce shows how these images not only communicate the temporal and spatial dimensions of the Navajo universe but also present, in visual form, Navajo ideas about relationships among nature, self, and society. Beautifully illustrated by the author, this well-documented book is based on six years of fieldwork with Navajo chanters and on the author's twenty-year friendship with a Navajo family. *Earth Is My Mother, Sky Is My Father* is an engaging study for anyone who wants to better understand modern Navajo philosophy and sacred practices.