

# NAVAJO PANTHEON

The Navajo pantheon reflects the strong connection between the Navajo and "Mother Earth". The pantheon is invoked in many ritual dances.

## TERMS

### BIKEH HOZHO

The personification of speech, who appears in the Navajo creation myth in human-like form.

DIYIN DINE are group of people with power, creators and culture heroes, often referred to as the Holy People.

## GODS AND GODDESSES

COYOTE OR OLD MAN is the the "trickster", who causes trouble.

ESTSANATLEHI is the most respected Navajo deity and is the sky goddess, wife of the sun. She is the twin sister of Yolkai Estsan, wife of the moon. She is the mother of the twins Monster Slayer and Born for Water, who were responsible for ridding the earth of monsters.

GLISPA gave the Navajo the gift of healing.

HASTSEOLTOI is the hunting goddess.

### SPIDER WOMAN

Spider Man and Spider Woman are Navajo supernaturals or Holy People. They taught the Navajo people how to weave, and established the four warnings of death.

TONENILI is the "Water sprinkler", or the the Navajo rain god. He is full of mischief. In tribal dances he is represented by a masked man who plays the part of a clown.

TSOHANOAI is the Sun god. He crosses the sky everyday with the Sun on his back. At night, the Sun rests by hanging on a peg in his house.

YOLKAI ESTASAN is the "White Shell Woman". She is the earth goddess of the Navajo, associated with seasons and the land.

