

# SEED CEREMONY

Did you know the humans give thanks for us?

Yes, they celebrate the Seed Ceremony.

Yippee! Tell me more!

The Seed Ceremony is to give thanks to the seeds whose power provides food for the people.

Twanáhayá? (Seed Dance)  
The Seed Dance Ceremony is an honoring of all plant life. It is done prior to anybody planting. Kayátowa·ná (The Peach Stone Game) is played and seeds are used to bet. The men play against the women. Fifty beans are used as counters. After the game is over, Ohstowa?kówa (the Great Feather Dance) is done to commemorate the purpose of this ceremony. Kunukwehnéha (the ways of the woman) and Osahé·ta? Aotilá·ná (the Bean Dance) are then done.

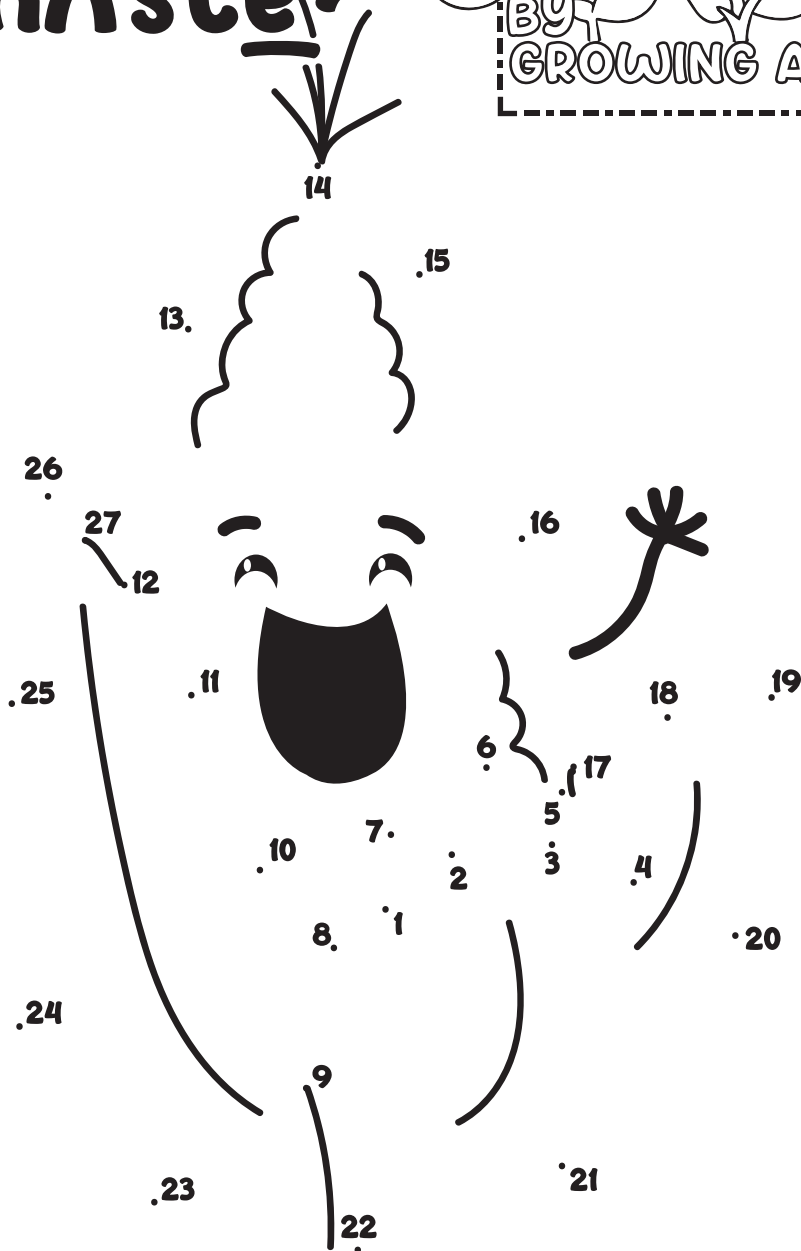


## Twanáhayá?

### We bet the seeds, Seed Ceremony

- Kanehelatúksla - Thanksgiving Address - Opening
- An overview of the days event will be given
- One man will be selected to collect seeds from the women. One man is selected to collect seeds from the men.
- One woman is selected to keep score. One man is selected to keep score.
- One woman is selected to hold the beans. One man is selected to hold the beans.
- The two men who collected the seeds match them up. A bundle of a man's seeds, are matched up with a similar sized women's bundle.
- Kayátowa·ná - the Peachstone game begins with men versus women.
- The two men who collected the seeds will chose who's going to play first and thereafter)
- The game is won by the team that collects all of the beans. The speaker will announce the winner and then give the introduction for Ohstowa?kó· - the Great Feather Dance.
- One round of Ohstowa?kó· is sung and everyone dances.
- The story of the Three Sisters - áhsá na?tekutáhnú·téle? is told.
- The Kunukwehnéha né· olánaka·yú·se? (Old Women's Songs) are sung by the men and all the women dance.
- Singers sing the Osahé·ta? aotilá·ná; Bean Dance. Everyone dances.
- A speaker stands to say the Closing - Takwanuhwela·tú·.
- We have a feast. Everyone sets out their plates and each family distributes their dish in a counter clockwise direction around the longhouse. Each clan brings a pot of cornsoup that is set near the fire for everyone to help themselves and enjoy.

Tesatna?ke.laht  
washe.ta's su.ni.  
o.n'iste?



**You write it!**

seed **ka.n'he?**

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squash **onu?u'hsehli**

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\_\_\_\_\_

beans **osah'hta?**

\_\_\_\_\_

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corn **o.n'iste?**

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# Word Scramble

Oh no! These words have been scrambled. Can you unscramble them?

oeencrcmy \_\_\_\_\_

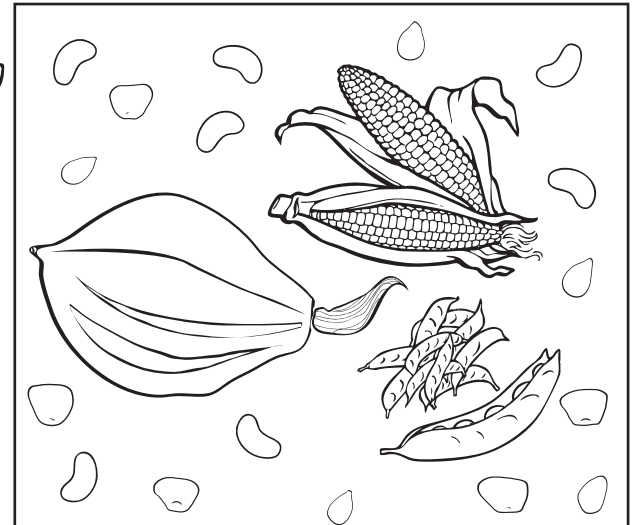
edes \_\_\_\_\_

cande \_\_\_\_\_

uolenhsog \_\_\_\_\_

euagidtrt \_\_\_\_\_

draw a line from the seed to the food





# The Peach Stone Game



## The Game of Peach Stone

As told in our Creation Story, the peach stone game was played between the good twin and the bad twin. It is a game that has existed before life on earth. Today, it is played during various ceremonies in the long house as part of our traditional responsibilities. The following is the story of how peach stone came to the people on earth.

The fatherless boy returned from across the water, as he had promised many years before. He took from his clothes 6 peach pits. One side of the peach pit was dark, while the other was light.

He informed his loyal friends, who had waited many years for his return and the people that this was a game that belonged to the Creator. When the Creator originally sent me here to you, he had intended there be Four matters to which the people shall use to give thanks. The Four matters are the Great Feather Dance, Men's Chant, Drum Dance and Peach Stone Game. The Creator intended for the people to be happy. He hoped that as the people moved about the earth, that their minds remained thankful and peaceful.

This game of peach stone is the last of the Four matters. I shall leave it on earth for your people to participate and entertain not only yourselves but the Creator and all his creation. When this game is going on, you should have a good mind when you are around the game. The Creator will hear the happiness in the voices and see it in their faces and then the Creator will truly know that the people are thankful and peaceful.

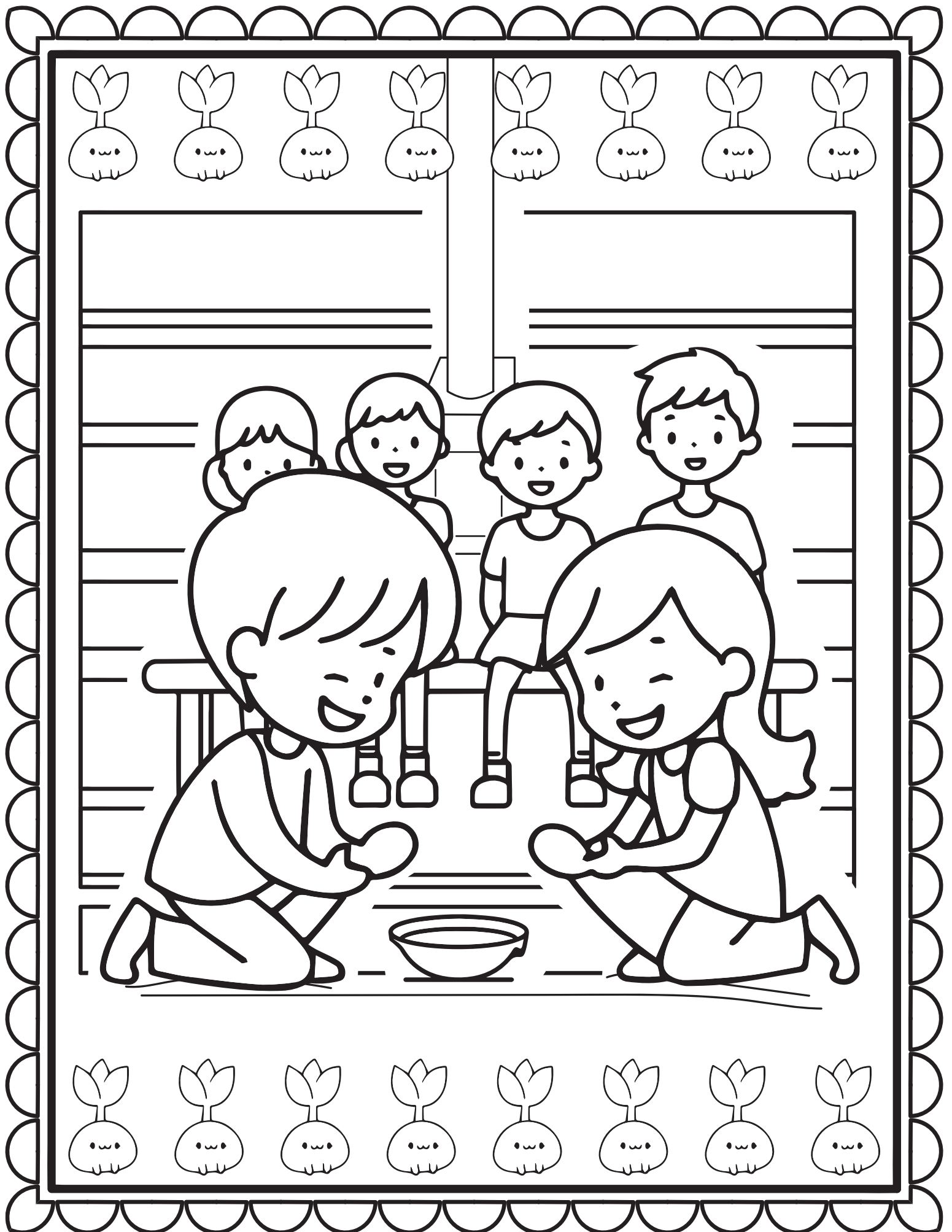
The outcome of the game is really un-important. What is important is the laughing and cheering, the pure enjoyment of the game and how it makes you feel. For that is what the Creator intended.

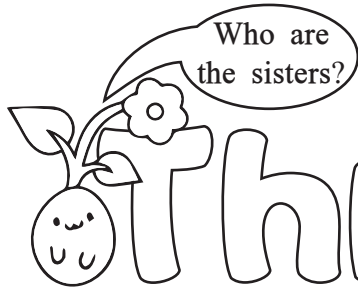


## GAME PLAY

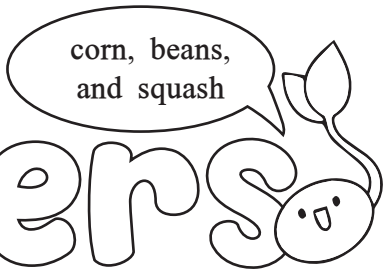
Peach stone is played three times during the year, once at Mid-Winter, Seed and at Harvest ceremonies. During Seed ceremony 50 beans are used. During Mid-Winter and Harvest ceremonies 101 beans are used. The one additional bean is used to make the total 101 is for the Creator and he will decide which way the game will go and how long. We understand that when he see's the people enjoying themselves, he will allow it to continue another day.

During Midwinter and harvest the game is started by the last two people who played at the last ceremony. The house is divided with the turtle and bears on one side and the wolves on the other. During Seed Ceremony the Peach Stone Game is played and seeds are used to bet. The men play against the women. Fifty beans are used as counters. The game is started with a man who was chosen to yell, signifying all creation to come close. Each player receives six beans. The player shakes the bowl and tries to get a combination of 5 and 1 or 6 of the same color. When the player loses their six beans they are out and a new person from that team sits down and gets another six beans. The game is won when one side of the house has all of the beans. After the game is over, the Great Feather Dance is done to commemorate the purpose of this ceremony. The Women's Dance and the Bean Dance are then done.





# The Story of the



# Three Sisters

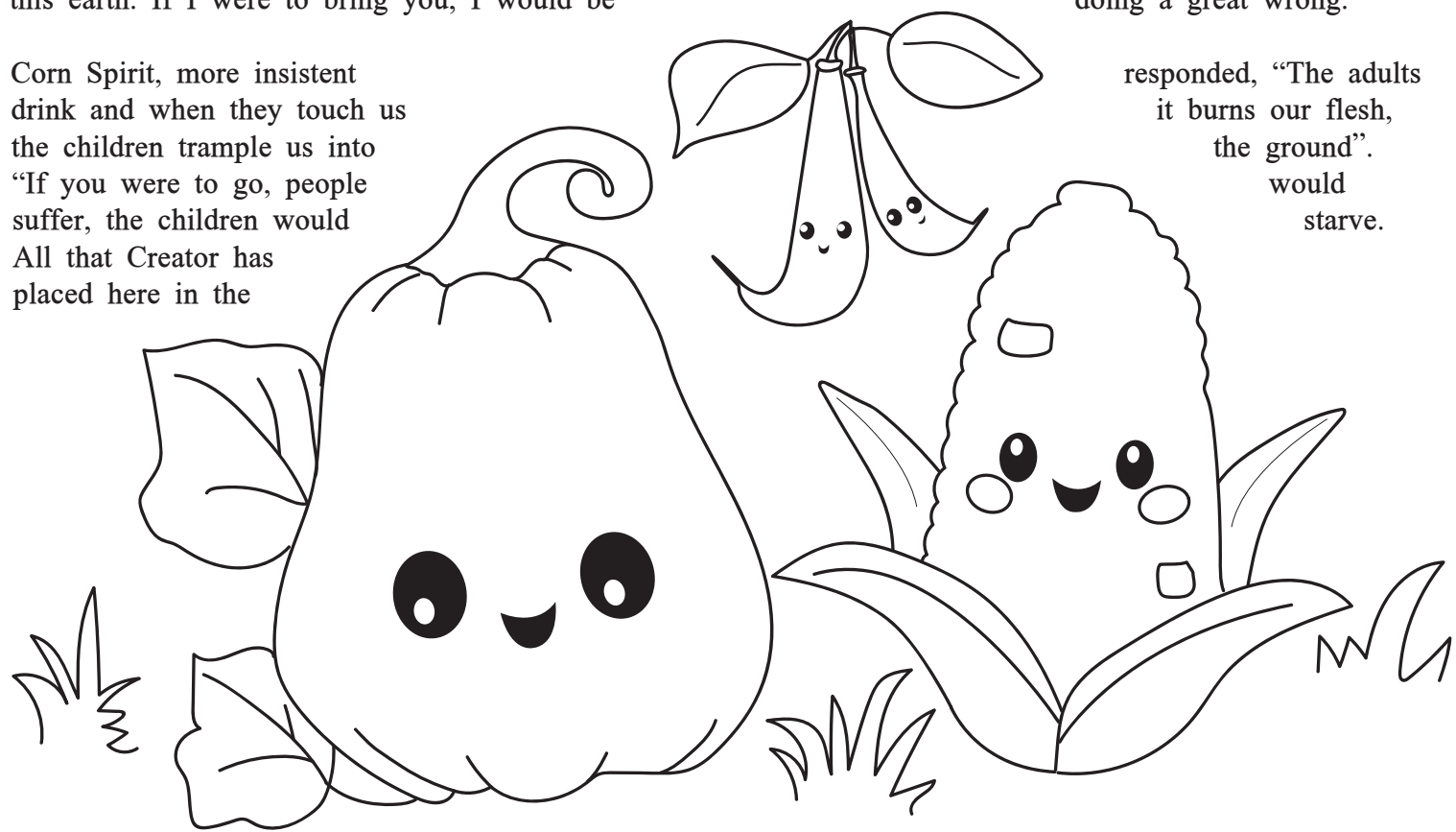
Handsome Lake was still at Cornplanter's village, we call it Tyonuhsaté'ka (jo-noose-a-day-guh). When he woke up he went outside and noticed how bright it was. Because everything was so bright, he thought it might be the day that he would return to the sky world. He got dressed and put on his best outfit. Returning to his porch and looking out into the land, he gazed upon his field and considered who would look after his crops. Thinking that he may not have another chance to set foot on this earth, he began to walk through the corn field.

Moments in, he felt something grab his arm, and heard the soft voice of a woman, " we can hear your thoughts and we want to go too". Scanning the area around him, there was no one there. Handsome Lake continued his walk, this time more observant when he felt the tug at his arm again, and a corn leaf that wrapped itself around his cuff. " We have been chosen to follow you." Squinting, he looked where the voice was coming from and he could see the silhouette of the Corn Spirit. She continued on, saying, "My sisters and I will go with you when you leave here. The people are not respectful. After we are planted and the sun's heat helps us to grow, the people don't return. It is as if it doesn't matter if we grow or not, so we want to go with you."

Handsome Lake thought about what Corn Spirit was saying. Though he understood, he could not bring them along. "I hear what you are saying, but only Creator can decide when one may leave this earth. If I were to bring you, I would be doing a great wrong."

Corn Spirit, more insistent  
drink and when they touch us  
the children trample us into  
"If you were to go, people  
suffer, the children would  
All that Creator has  
placed here in the

responded, "The adults  
it burns our flesh,  
the ground".  
would  
starve.



natural world is meant to help each other. You are very important, and this is why you must stay."

Corn Spirit considered what was said, "Then perhaps we will stay. You must take a message to the people. When your ceremonies are conducted, all the natural world draws in to hear the words of gratitude and encouragement, but we do not hear ours. We want to be included in your ceremonies. We are related

to the women, they too create and sustain life. They are always concerned with feeding their families, and for it to be peaceful for their children. Your people should sing the Women's Song for us and for the women. This gesture will show gratitude and encourage us to have strong minds and fulfill our responsibilities. Then maybe we will stay."

Handsome Lake accepted this message and indeed took it to the people. Today, the 3 sisters are included within our ceremonies, and we conduct the Women's Dance for them and all the women.

TOTAL  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 trys

\_\_\_\_\_ trys

\_\_\_\_\_ trys

\_\_\_\_\_ trys

\_\_\_\_\_ trys

\_\_\_\_\_ trys

\_\_\_\_\_ trys

Put your pencil on the seed, close your eyes and try to draw a line to it's mound. Don't feed the groundhogs!

