

Green Corn WORKPACKET

All parts of the
corn are useful.

Green Corn Kernels

Kernels are used for roasted
green corn soup, bread, and
drink.

Corn Silk

Corn Silk can be
used for tea for
enjoyment or
various ailments.

Corn Husk

Corn Husk can be used
for making things like
mats, slippers, dolls,
flowers, cordage and
ceremonial purposes.

Can you think of
any other uses for
the parts of corn?



Onástase? Wehnitale?

Green Corn Moon

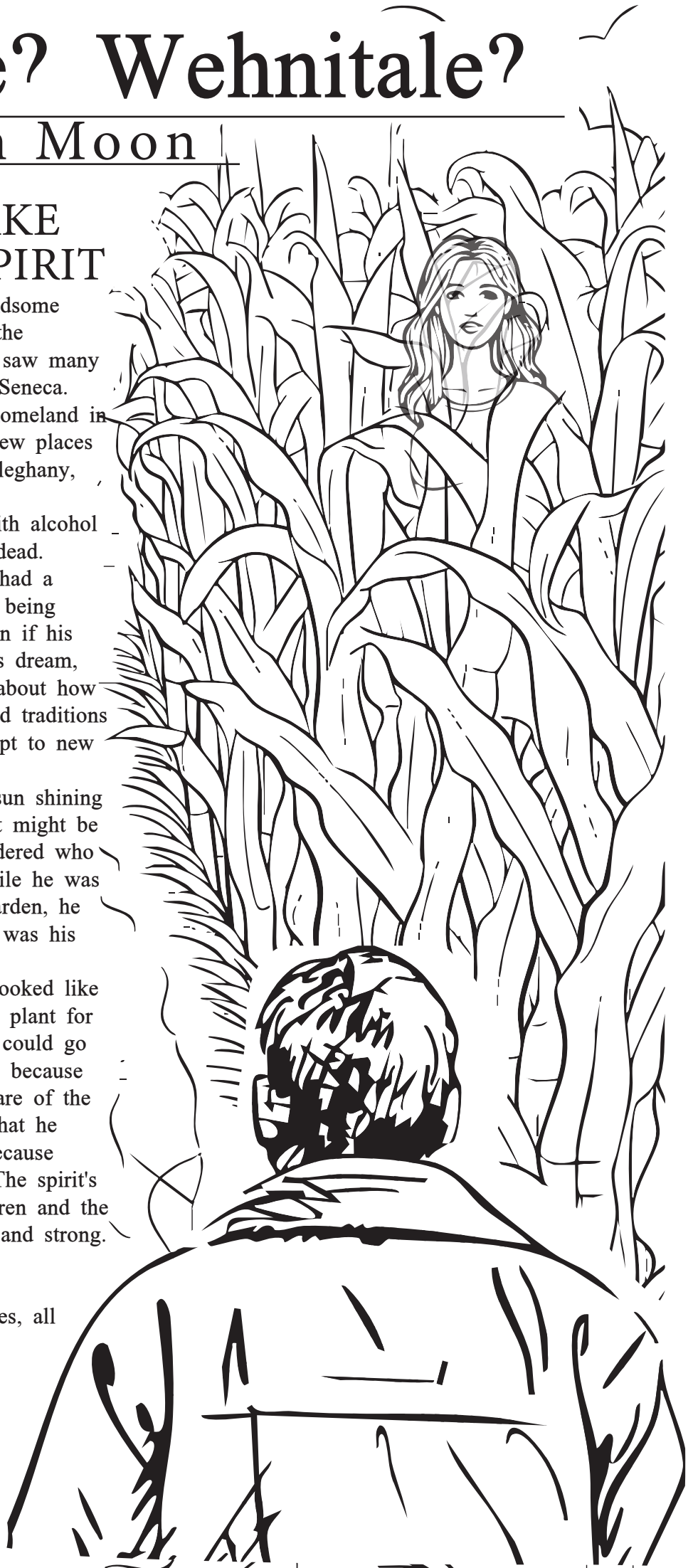
HANDSOME LAKE & THE CORN SPIRIT

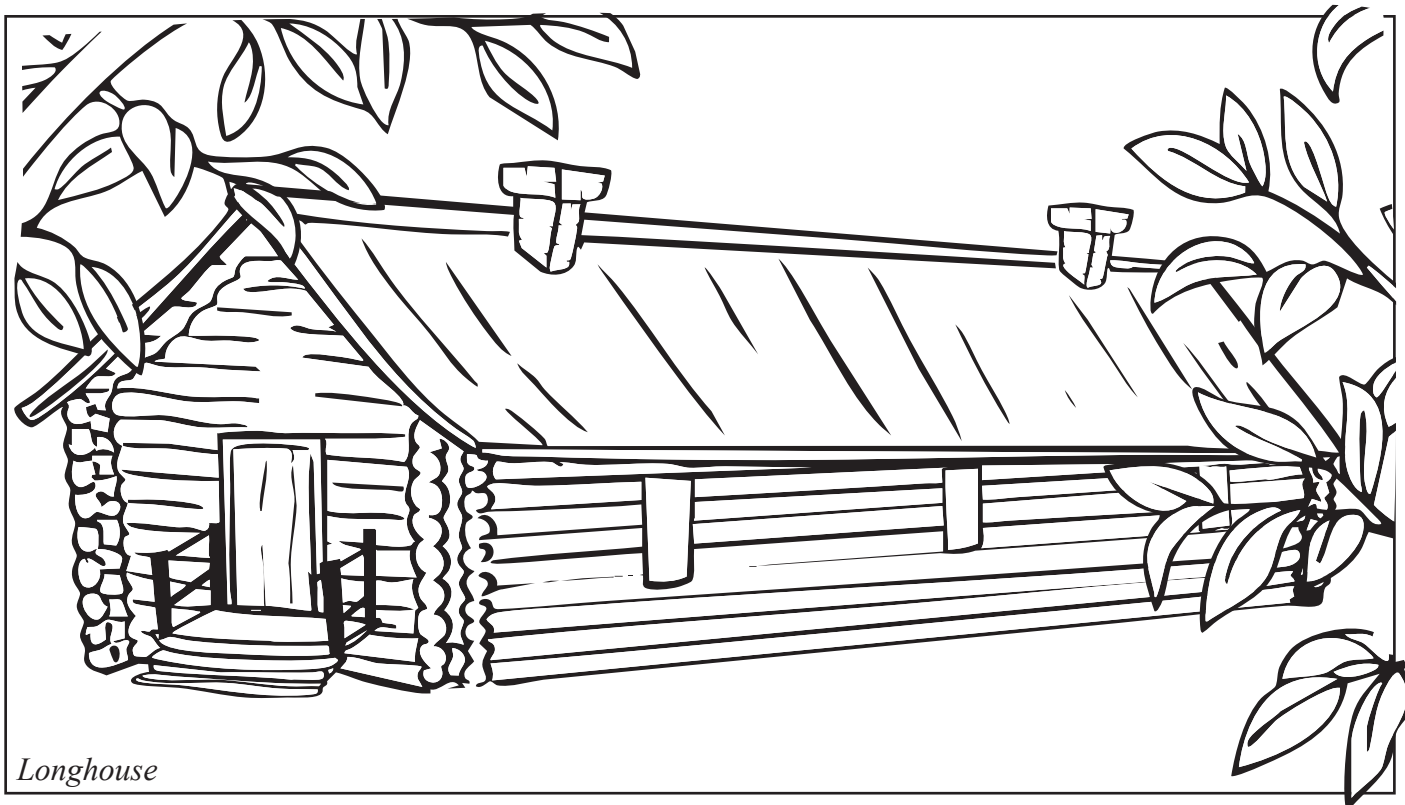
There once was a man named Handsome Lake who was born in 1735 near the Genesee River. During his life, he saw many changes happen to his people, the Seneca. They had to leave their beautiful homeland in the Genesee Valley and move to new places like Buffalo Creek, Tonawanda, Alleghany, and Cattaraugus.

Handsome Lake became so sick with alcohol poisoning that he appeared to look dead. While he was in a deep sleep, he had a special dream. He felt that he was being shown bad things that might happen if his people forgot their customs. In his dream, he received an important message about how his people could remember their old traditions and ways, and how they could adapt to new times without losing their identity.

Waking one morning, he saw the sun shining brightly. Handsome Lake thought it might be his last day on Earth, and he wondered who would take care of the gardens while he was gone. As he walked through his garden, he heard a gentle voice asking if this was his last time on Earth.

Suddenly, he noticed a spirit that looked like the spirit of corn, a very important plant for his people. The spirit asked if she could go with Handsome Lake when he left, because the people were not taking good care of the plants. Handsome Lake explained that he couldn't take the spirit with him because everything had a special purpose. The spirit's purpose was to help feed the children and the elders, so they would stay healthy and strong. He and the spirit came up with a compromise, that after four special ceremonies, full of songs and dances, all living things would come closer together, and everyone would remember how important it is to respect the natural world and keep their traditions alive.





Longhouse

Green Corn Ceremony

“Green Corn is a one-day ceremony. Green Corn is in August when the white corn is at the milky stage and still sweet. The day is set when the people who grow corn notify the faith keepers that the corn is ready. The faith keepers will decide when a good time is to have the ceremony. They will also select a person from each of the clans Turtle, Bear, and Wolf to make a kettle of green corn soup. The Green Corn Ceremony starts in the morning (9:00). It begins with the opening Thanksgiving prayer. Then two singers will be chosen to sing the Great Feather Dance. Also two leaders

to lead the dancers will be selected. The Great Feather Dance is done in honor of the corn life. The feather dance also is done to give thanks that the corn has grown again and is still here for us to eat and use for medicines. Everyone is encouraged to dance the feather dance or to go around at least three times. If there is someone unable to dance, they sit by the singers. When the feather dance is over the story of the three sisters is told. Then the next dance will be the Old Women's Dance because the corn is the (head) one of the three sisters, a woman like our Mother Earth. The next dance is the Bean Dance.” A long time ago, “after that song, two men one from each side of the fire or house will

be selected by the “grandmothers” to take the pot of soup from the fire and they will serve the people. Visitors will be fed first, then the children and the very old people. The leaders are last and this includes Faith keepers, Chiefs, and Clan mothers. Some of the older chiefs would wait until everyone ate then they would eat. The chiefs, most of whom are now passed away said that when food is scarce it is then the absolute rule that all chiefs will wait until the people ate and then if anything was left over they would eat.” Today the soup sits upon the wood stove and individuals serve themselves. “The feast confirms the Green Corn Ceremony and it is followed by the closing thanksgiving address.”

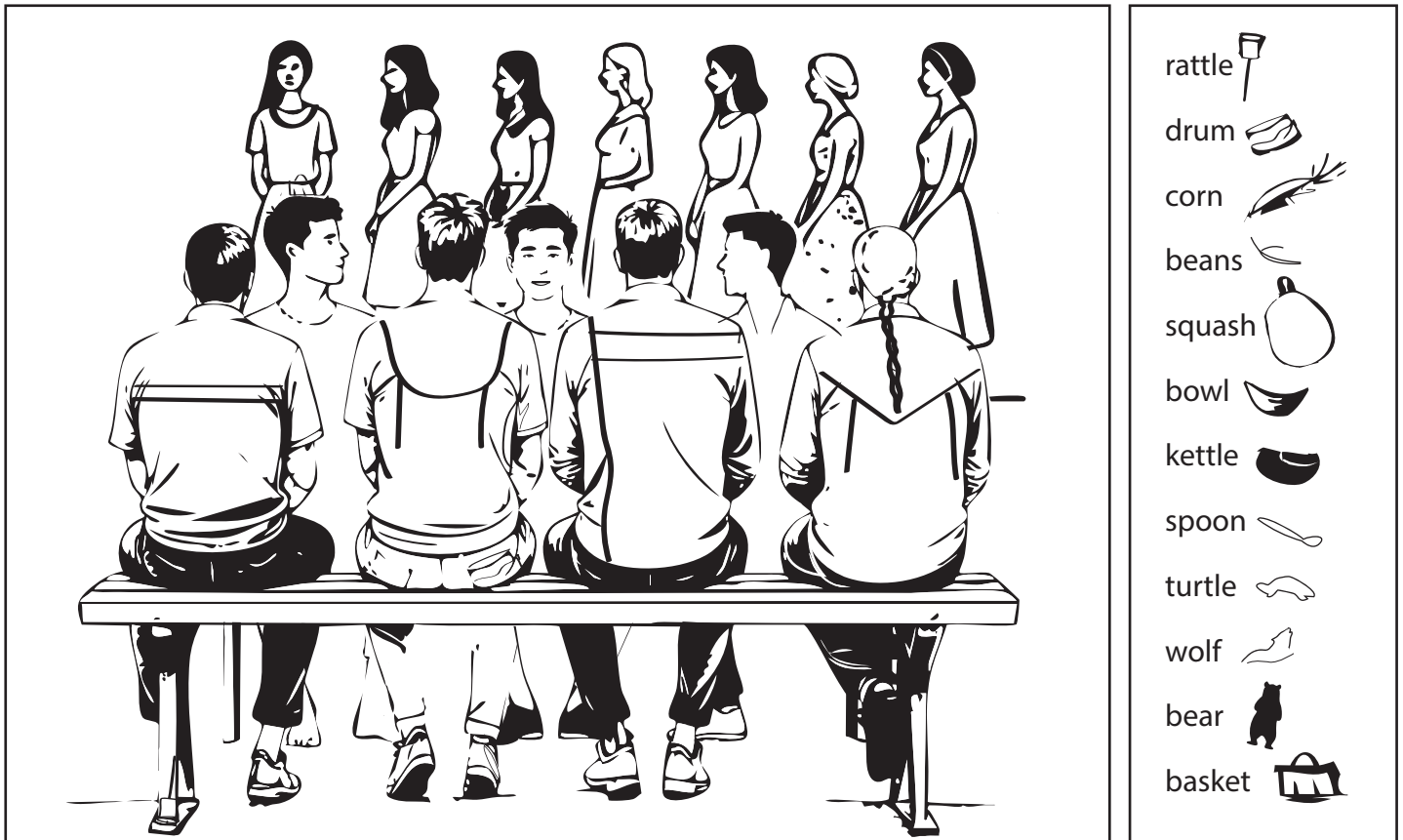
*As reported by Kalihwisaks
(August 22, 2002)*

FIND THE HIDDEN PICTURES

The women's dance: In this type of dance, the women move by shuffling and twisting from their hips down to their feet. Their hands gently bounce and turn near their chest.

People believe this dance was inspired by our creation story and the act of pounding corn. Even today, when the women perform this dance, it is seen as a way to honor Mother Earth. While the women dance, the men sing songs to show their love and thankfulness for women and for the feminine side of life.

Directions: Find the Hidden pictures and then translate the words to Oneida using the website <https://www.uwgb.edu/oneida/>



rattle

drum

corn

beans

squash

bowl

kettle

spoon

turtle

wolf

bear

basket