

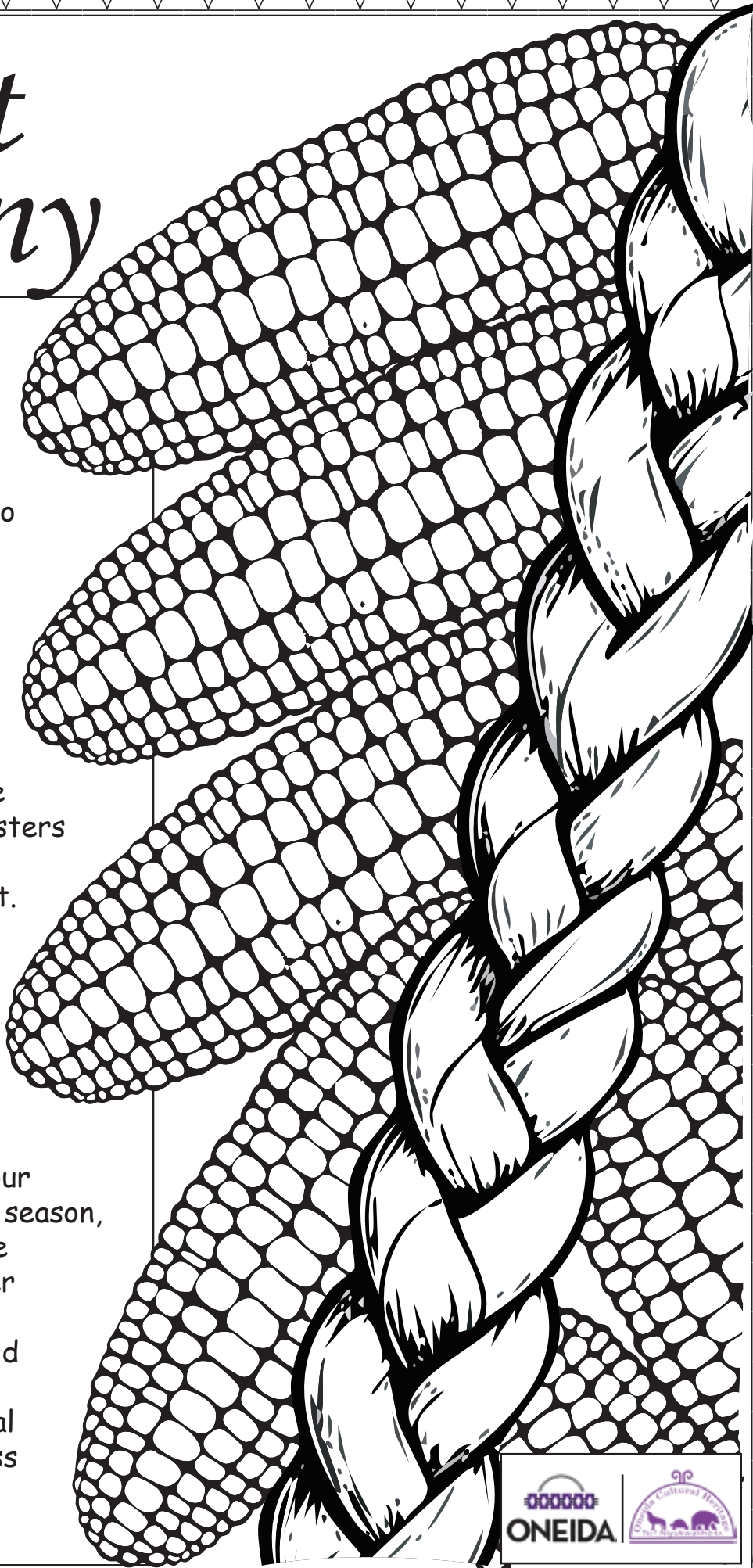
Harvest Ceremony

This is the time of year when the weather starts getting colder. The days are shorter, and the leaves change into beautiful fall colors. This is the time to harvest the crops that were cared for all summer.

Every year, the Oneida community has an event called the Husking Bee and Harvest Fest. It is a time for people to learn about the science behind the Three Sisters Garden—corn, beans, and squash—and have fun doing it. This celebration is about giving thanks for the harvest. One of the highlights is harvesting and braiding our Oneida white corn.

From spring, when we plant our gardens, through green corn season, and finally to harvest, we are thankful for the food Mother Earth provides.

After the first frost, we hold ceremonies to show appreciation to all the natural beings that make this process possible.



HARVEST CEREMONY

The Harvest Thanksgiving ceremony lasts for at least three days assuming that the Peach Stone Game lasts only one day. It is done to give thanks to everything that has provided us with a bountiful harvest and growing season.

The first day there are **Three Great Feather Dances**. The first one is for all of the title holders, the second is for the people, and the third is for the Creator.

On the second day, the **Tobacco Thanksgiving Ceremony** is the first thing done. Then the **Men's Song Ceremony** is opened. This is when our **names are put through**. The Friendship Medicine Society Ceremony can be done, and Faithkeepers can be raised up (appointed) at this time, also.

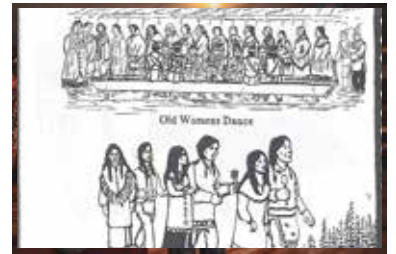
Then the **Water Drum Dance** is done. A speaker is chosen to give the Thanksgiving during the dance for all of the cycles of life. The wild blackberry is used as a medicine during this dance.

On the third day the **Peach Stone Game** is played with the Bear Clan and the Turtle Clan against the Wolf Clan. Things deemed appropriate to bet are wampum, turtle rattles, lacrosse sticks, or traditional clothing.

A runner is chosen from each side of the house to go around early in the morning to collect what the people will be using to bet. The items collected from the Bear and Turtle Clans are matched up with items of equal value that are collected from the Wolf Clan. Whatever side of the house wins, they get back what they bet and what was matched up with it.

Then the Great **Feather Dance**, the **Old Woman's Dance** and the **Bean Dance** are sung.

Use the passage above to correctly name the procedures that are happening in the images below.



Word Scramble: Unscramble the words and then find and write how to say them in Oneida using the UWGB Oneida Dictionary at <https://www.uwgb.edu/oneida/>

vearsht

mpumaw

tleart

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below.

Part A: Comprehension Questions

1. How long does the Harvest Thanksgiving ceremony usually last?
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2. What happens on the first day of the ceremony?
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3. What is the first ceremony on the second day, and what other activities can happen that day?
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4. What is used as medicine during the Water Drum Dance?
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Part B: Deeper Thinking Questions

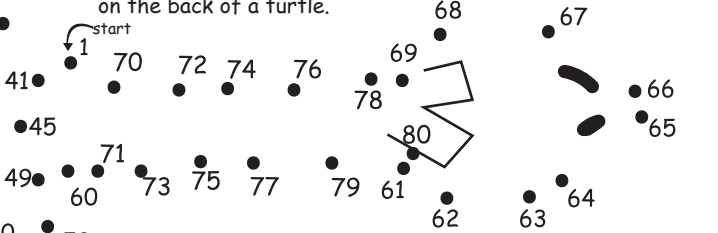
5. Why do you think the ceremony includes so many different dances and songs over three days?
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6. What does the Harvest tell you about the values and traditions of Oneida people?
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Connect the Dots
to make a Turtle Rattle

Turtles hold deep significance for the Oneida people. The shells of large snapping turtles are used by certain Oneida singers during the Great Feather Dance and in healing ceremonies. This tradition honors the turtle's sacred role in our creation story, which teaches that our land was formed on the back of a turtle.

start



The turtle's shell is symbolic:

- The 13 central plates represent the 13 moons of the lunar year.
- The 28 outer segments reflect the 28 days between each moon cycle.

Additionally, the turtle is one of the three clans of the Oneida Nation, further emphasizing its importance in our identity and way of life.



HARVEST WORDSEARCH

F	R	I	E	N	D	S	J	B	L	P	I	C	K	R	W	T	Y
F	A	M	I	L	Y	G	M	E	D	I	L	P	V	P	I	R	F
R	T	S	G	R	J	A	W	A	I	U	E	O	N	U	N	Y	A
H	H	U	J	B	R	R	Y	N	F	N	A	T	U	M	S	C	L
F	A	L	S	O	A	D	I	S	E	Y	V	A	D	P	S	A	L
R	N	R	O	Q	Z	E	N	D	A	A	E	T	S	K	K	R	A
O	K	T	V	A	U	N	S	A	S	P	S	O	Q	I	Z	R	U
S	F	E	X	E	I	A	L	Z	T	P	X	E	B	N	U	O	T
T	U	F	Q	Z	S	M	S	Y	V	L	P	S	Y	O	D	T	U
J	L	M	W	P	P	T	Q	H	J	E	Y	A	I	Q	S	S	M
P	U	P	N	K	T	Q	M	V	S	S	J	D	W	Z	X	Q	N
T	B	G	F	A	M	J	T	U	V	S	C	O	R	N	C	L	N

Find the following words in the puzzle:

THANKFUL	SQUASH	BEANS	CORN	FRIENDS	AUTUMN
POTATOES	GARDEN	FROST	PICK	PUMPKIN	LEAVES
HARVEST	FAMILY	FEAST	FALL	CARROTS	APPLES