The Life of the Corn – Question Sheet

Name _____

1. Read the assigned Scene (notes and songs).

2. The author clearly has strong feelings about her subject. Underline or highlight phrases that convey this feeling.

3. Divide up the reference websites. What factual information can you find (if any) to support or contradict the following "facts" that can be gleaned from this Skit? Answer on separate paper

1. The Pawnees worship a "Corn Mother" goddess.
2. The Pawnees practiced corn agriculture in pre-Contact settlements.
3. Buffalo were plentiful where the Pawnees lived pre-Contact.
4. Hunting buffalo was a major event for the Pawnees.
5. Both men and women participate in a Corn ceremony.
6. The Corn ceremony of the Pawnees has 5 parts.
7. Ceremonial robes for a Corn ceremony are green and/or multi-colored and include scarves.
8. Wands are used in ceremonial dances of the Pawnees.
9. The number 7 is sacred or significant to the Pawnees.
10. Ceremonial dances give thanks for Corn.
11. Native Americans planted corn in rows of little hills.

4. Discuss and summarize or list the group responses to the following questions:

1. What is offensive or stereotypical about this skit?

2. Some of you attend regular religious services. Imagine that a group from another culture were to "dress up" like you do (and the priests, rabbis, etc. do) and imitate your service. How would you feel?

3. Is there a ceremony that you can think of that is commonly imitated? Is this for fun or for another purpose? Describe this.