

# INDIAN CORN SONG



I been restin'  
Ain't been workin'  
I been sittin' down  
I been thinkin'

How the rich man tries to run this <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
How he promised he would help us,  
If we put him into office.  
How he turned his promises around (2X)

Big \_\_\_\_\_  
Speculators, Senators and Agitators  
They tell what all they gonna do  
When they get into \_\_\_\_\_  
See what they can take off of us  
Take from me  
They take from you.

<sup>d</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ man  
He frisk us, frisk us.

Lawyer man  
He won't <sup>e</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Where oh where is the <sup>f</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ man? (2X)

Barber man, he clip your whiskers.

Money man, he clip your sister.

<sup>g</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ man, he take your land.  
He take your land.

'Cross the <sup>h</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
I been lookin'

Seldom see anybody workin'—  
Is the work or the world all done? (2X)

Come big rain.  
Come big thunder.  
Come big crop— \_\_\_\_\_ crop under.

<sup>i</sup> We  
Indians never waste a one.

Let's beat Finance, Man and Weather.

Workin' people get it together

Have big meetin' down in town.

Have big meetin' down town, yeah.

Workin' people take the groceries—

Feed the homeless.

Feed the <sup>j</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

Pass the groceries all around.

Pass the groceries all around.



**PART I: Look at the words below and place them in the most appropriate place in the song. Listen to the song and check whether your guesses were correct.**



**PART II: Look back at the lyrics and answer the following questions:**

- 1) What is the state of the economy as described in the song? Which line(s) from the lyrics support your answer?
- 2) What has the writer of the lyrics been thinking about lately? What examples does he mention to make his point?
- 3) What is the following line, "<sup>We</sup>Indians never waste a one," referring to?
- 4) At the end of the song the vocalist offers a solution. What is it and do you agree with it?

**PART III: Discussion Questions**

- 1) Can you think of any other instances of "How the rich man tries to run this land," that the vocalist does not mention?
  - a) The vocalist asks, "Where oh where is the honest man?" Do you agree with him?
  - b) Are there any honest people in this world? If yes, name/describe some people you consider honest and your reasons. If no, why do you think this is so?
  - c) Discuss the following saying, (ABSOLUTE) POWER ABSOLUTELY CORRUPTS.
- 3) The vocalist pleads for "Workin' people" to "get it together" and mentions some things they could do. Can you think of some other things PEOPLE POWER can accomplish to help others?

**PART IV: EMPOWER Yourself!**

- 1) Surf the Net (One great source is [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)) and research one of the following topics: unemployment, poverty or activism.
- 2) Can you find any examples of PEOPLE POWER that benefit the community? Prepare notes to help you inform your classmates of your findings in the next class.