“Thunderheart”
(a study of criminal jurisdiction in the movies)

Directions:
There are 31 questions (short answer, fill in the blank, multiple choice, and true/false).
Answer the questions as you watch the movie “Thunderheart”.

1. “This story was inspired by several events that took place on American Indian reservations in the 1970’S ________.”

2. The movie starts out with somebody being shot.
   Is this person Indian? Yes No
   Explain: SEE STUDENT ANSWER

3. Who is this man? (circle all that apply)
   French/Scotch-Irish/Sioux
   FBI Agent
   Navajo
   Ray Levoi
   Cherokee
   a member of ARM

4. “This is a MURDER investigation. It’s also about helping people. People who are stuck in the illusions of the PAST.”

5. What is Ray Levoi’s (Val Kilmer’s) assignment?
   Go into the reservation as an American indian

6. Who is Frank Coutelle?
   He’s the head guy in south dakota

7. Ray Levoi: “Just left the body out here?”
   Frank Coutelle: “FBI jurisdiction. Body belongs to us.”
8. **Who is this man?** (circle all that apply)
   - Geronimo
   - Full Blooded Oglala Sioux
   - Walter Crow Horse
   - Tribal Police
   - Murder Suspect
   - your current snag

9. “Violation of the [Major Crimes Act](#) on an Indian Reservation is within the [jurisdiction](#) of the Federal Bureau of Intimidation.”

10. How does Frank Coutelle describe the “traditionalists”?
    They want to go back to the tipi and buffalo hunt, overthrow the council and institute the traditional chief system

11. What does GOON stand for?
    Guardians of the Oglala Nation

12. What does ARM stand for?
    Aboriginal Rights Movement

13. In this scene are Ray Levoi and Walter Crow Horse working together on solving the murder of Fastelk?
    yes

14. **Ray Levoi:** “You’re out of your [jurisdiction](#). Let’s go”
    **Walter Crow Horse:** “[jurisdiction](#) is the only thing you got!”

15. **Frank Coutelle:** “You’re barking up the wrong tree Ray. He’s plays with FBI heads. That’s his MO. He’s got no [jurisdiction](#) here.”
16. **Crowhorse**: “license and registration…please sir…This is my jurisdiction. You were doing a 59 in a 55.  
**Levoi**: “Let me see your radar.”  
**Crowhorse**: “I don’t need no radar, I can tell. Listen to the wind….it said fiiiiiiifty niiiiiiine….nail him.”

17. Crowhorse helps Levoi talk to the “traditionalists”. First he tells Levoi to always bring **tobacco** when he goes to talk to an elder. Then Crowhorse teaches Levoi to barter with **grampa**, and explains that smoking the **pipe** will help establish trust.

18. Why do the elder medicine man Grampa Reaches and “gramma” agree to talk to Levoi?  
*They know his family, and they saw visions of him coming.*

19. **EXTRA CREDIT**: Even though FBI has jurisdiction over major crimes (like murder) on Indian reservations, why do FBI agents need the help of local tribal police?

20. “He also said listen to the **water**.”

21. Why is FBI agent Levoi carrying a box of tobacco and other goods?

   *He learned that whenever you want to talk to (interview) an elder, you need to bring tobacco.*

22. **How do the tribal people know the water is contaminated?**
   a. They did water quality tests  
   b. Ranchers find stillborn calves around the rez  
   c. The water is neon green  
   d. A and b only
23. “Grampa reaches told her you come from brave people.”

24. “I don’t care about what went on between you and Dawes in some office in DC. This is a battlefield.”

25. In the scene to the right, what is Ray Levoi helping Grampa Reaches do? Carry water

26. “We all have feathers from the same eagle.”

27. “When the ARM warriors came here, it was like an awakening.”

28. “Around here I’m the FBI. Full-blooded-Indian”

29. “Internal Civil Conflict. They’ve been at each other’s throats for years.”

30. “They’re a proud people, but they’re also a conquered people. And their future is dictated by the nation that conquered them.”

31. “Power is a rainstorm. Power is that river right there.”
The movie **Thunderheart** was inspired by several events that took place on Indian reservation in the 1970’s. The FBI agent Ray Levoi is sent to a Sioux **reservation** to investigate the **murder** of an Indian named Leo FastElk. Even though both North and South Dakota are PL 280 **jurisdiction** states, no tribes accepted PL 280 state jurisdiction, so the state does not have **jurisdiction** in this murder investigation. The Supreme Court ruled in “**Ex Parte Crowdog**” that tribes have jurisdiction over crimes committed by Indians against Indians on Indian lands, the **Major Crimes Act** gives the federal government jurisdiction over major crimes committed in Indian Country. In conclusion, the **Federal** government has jurisdiction over murders in Sioux Indian Country.