

What is a Tribal Government?

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



Many Native Americans live on reservations. The United States government set aside land for the reservations. A specific Native American tribe manages each reservation.

Each tribe is in charge of its own **tribal government**. Tribal governments are not part of the local or state governments. Native Americans serve on the tribal councils. The councils make laws for the reservation. The laws are just like the laws that the state or local governments make. The government tries to protect the health, safety, and rights of the people. Tribal governments also provide services for the people who live on the reservation. They have their own systems for police, fire protection and courts.

Many tribal governments have written constitutions, too. A constitution is a written plan for how the government will work. It includes the duties and freedoms of the people and the government. When there are disagreements, the constitution helps solve the problems.

Tribal governments help their people earn money. Some tribes create art or sing and dance in cultural performances on their reservations. Visitors pay money to see artifacts in museums and attend shows. Some tribe members sell original arts and crafts. Some tribes have casinos and other entertainment to bring in paying customers.

In turn, the Native American tribe helps the local and state economy. They spend their money in local businesses and pay taxes.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is a reservation?

2) Who is in charge of the tribal government?

3) What is a constitution?

4) What is one way the tribe makes money?

5) Do you think that having separate tribal governments is a good idea? Why, or why not?

What is a Tribal Government?

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



Many Native Americans live on reservations. The United States government set aside land for the reservations. A specific Native American tribe manages each reservation.

Each tribe is in charge of its own **tribal government**. Tribal governments are not part of the local or state governments. Native Americans serve on the tribal councils. The councils make laws for the reservation. The laws are just like the laws that the state or local governments make. The government tries to protect the health, safety, and rights of the people. Tribal governments also provide services for the people who live on the reservation. They have their own systems for police, fire protection and courts.

Many tribal governments have written constitutions, too. A constitution is a written plan for how the government will work. It includes the duties and freedoms of the people and the government. When there are disagreements, the constitution helps solve the problems.

Tribal governments help their people earn money. Some tribes create art or sing and dance in cultural performances on their reservations. Visitors pay money to see artifacts in museums and attend shows. Some tribe members sell original arts and crafts. Some tribes have casinos and other entertainment to bring in paying customers.

In turn, the Native American tribe helps the local and state economy. They spend their money in local businesses and pay taxes.

Name: **Key** _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Actual wording of answers may vary.

1) What is a reservation?

Land set aside by the United States government for a Native American tribe.

2) Who is in charge of the tribal government?
the tribe

3) What is a constitution?

a written plan for how a government will work

4) What is one way the tribe makes money?

art or sing and dance or museums or shows or casinos

5) Do you think that having separate tribal governments is a good idea? Why, or why not?

student's choice