Whose Seal Is It?

Read how state and tribal seals identify governments.

4.SS.4.3 "Explain the significance of Idaho symbols and the unique tribal seal of each federally recognized tribe in Idaho."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what the figures on Idaho's state seal mean. Circle the name of each tribe, then number the five tribal seals in the order they appear so you can track which government each seal represents.

Seals Tell a Story

1. A seal is a special design used to show who an official message comes from. Idaho's state seal shows a miner and a woman. The miner points to the state's history of mining. The woman stands for justice and liberty. Idaho's state flag carries this seal, so people can recognize the state government on a flag, too. These symbols tell part of Idaho's story.

2. Tribal seals matter, too. Five federally recognized tribes have governments in Idaho, and each has its own seal. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe's seal identifies its government in northern Idaho. The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's seal identifies a different government in the north. The Nez Perce Tribe's seal stands for its own people and government in north central Idaho. These three seals are not Idaho's state seal.

3. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' seal identifies their government at Fort Hall in southeastern Idaho. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes' seal identifies their government at Duck Valley, where the reservation crosses the Idaho-Nevada border. Each tribal seal marks a government's own identity, not a branch of the state. When you see any of these seals on an official notice, you can ask whose voice it represents.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the miner and the woman on Idaho's state seal help tell the state's story?

2. Why do the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho have different seals?

3. What does the Nez Perce Tribe's seal represent, and why is it not the same as Idaho's state seal?

4. Why should someone not confuse the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' seal with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes' seal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a school display called “Who Sent This Letter?” Write a three-sentence caption explaining how Idaho's state seal and one named tribal seal help readers tell who is speaking and why that matters.

ANSWER KEY

Whose Seal Is It?

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what the figures on Idaho's state seal mean. Circle the name of each tribe, then number the five tribal seals in the order they appear so you can track which government each seal represents. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the miner and the woman on Idaho's state seal help tell the state's story?	**The miner points to Idaho's mining history. The woman stands for justice and liberty.**
2	Why do the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho have different seals?	**Each seal identifies a different tribal government in northern Idaho.**
3	What does the Nez Perce Tribe's seal represent, and why is it not the same as Idaho's state seal?	**It represents the Nez Perce people and their own government, not Idaho's state government.**
4	Why should someone not confuse the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' seal with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes' seal?	**The seals identify different governments. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' government is at Fort Hall, while the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes' government is at Duck Valley.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Idaho's state seal shows that a letter comes from the state government. A letter with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes' seal comes from their own government at Duck Valley. Checking the seal helps us know which government is speaking instead of treating them as the same.

Accept explanations that distinguish each named tribal government from Idaho's state government. The caption should name one tribe and explain why identifying the sender matters.