Voices in Public Life

Compare participation in Athens and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

6.C.7 "Define and compare the citizen's role and methods of participation in civil society in civilizations of Europe and the Americas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways Athenian citizens took part in public life, circle two ways Haudenosaunee people took part, and number one difference in who could help make decisions.

Who Had a Voice?

1. In ancient Athens, a decision about building a wall could bring people to a public meeting. Civil society is the shared life of a community, where people take part in solving public problems. In Athens, adult male citizens could speak and vote in an assembly that made decisions for the city. They could also serve on juries, which decided court cases. Women, enslaved people, and foreigners living in Athens could not vote in the assembly. Citizenship gave some people a direct voice, but left many others out.

2. Across the Atlantic, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy joined several Native nations in what is now northeastern North America. Its nations governed through councils, but their ways of choosing leaders differed from Athens. Clan mothers, women with leadership roles in their clans, chose male chiefs to represent the clans. They could also remove a chief who failed to serve the people. Chiefs discussed matters affecting the Confederacy and worked toward consensus, or agreement, rather than deciding by a simple majority vote. Community members could share concerns through their clans.

3. Citizenship and community membership did not work in exactly the same way in these communities. In Athens, citizenship was a legal status that gave certain men the right to vote directly. In Haudenosaunee nations, people belonged to nations and clans, and clan mothers had an important part in selecting and holding leaders accountable. Both communities used discussion to address shared concerns. Yet their methods differed: Athenian citizens voted in an assembly, while Haudenosaunee chiefs sought consensus in council. Who could take part, and how, shaped each community's decisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did an Athenian citizen's role in the assembly differ from a Haudenosaunee chief's role in council?

2. How could an Athenian citizen without a leadership title take part, and how could a Haudenosaunee community member share a concern?

3. How did women's roles in public decisions differ between the two communities?

4. Name one way the communities were alike in public life and one way their methods differed.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that each community must decide how to care for a shared water source. In four to five sentences, compare who could help make the decision and how it would be made in Athens and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy; explain one limit to either method.

ANSWER KEY

Voices in Public Life

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways Athenian citizens took part in public life, circle two ways Haudenosaunee people took part, and number one difference in who could help make decisions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did an Athenian citizen's role in the assembly differ from a Haudenosaunee chief's role in council?	**An Athenian citizen could speak and vote in the assembly. A Haudenosaunee chief discussed matters with other chiefs and worked toward consensus.**
2	How could an Athenian citizen without a leadership title take part, and how could a Haudenosaunee community member share a concern?	**The Athenian citizen could speak and vote in the assembly. The Haudenosaunee community member could share concerns through a clan.**
3	How did women's roles in public decisions differ between the two communities?	**Women in Athens could not vote in the assembly. Haudenosaunee clan mothers chose chiefs and could remove a chief who failed to serve the people.**
4	Name one way the communities were alike in public life and one way their methods differed.	**Both used discussion to address shared concerns. Athenian citizens voted in an assembly, while Haudenosaunee chiefs worked toward consensus in council.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If a shared water source needed care, adult male Athenian citizens could speak and vote in the assembly. Women, enslaved people, and foreigners living in Athens could not vote there. In the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, community members could share concerns through their clans, and chiefs could work toward consensus on a matter affecting the Confederacy. Clan mothers could hold chiefs accountable by removing a chief who failed to serve the people. Athens's method left many residents without a vote, so I would not use that rule today.

Accept comparisons that distinguish direct voting in Athens from discussion and consensus among Haudenosaunee chiefs. For Part 3, the water-source decision is hypothetical, but each participation method and limit must fit the passage.