# Who Belongs Here?

Examining the meaning of being a Hoosier

**IS.5.7** "Examine what it means to be a 'Hoosier.'"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one detail showing each person's tie to Indiana, circle the two proposed tests for belonging, and put a star beside Ruth's reminder about the past. Use your marks to compare what people mean by "Hoosier."

### A Question at the Meeting

1 At a neighborhood meeting in Indianapolis, a sign asks, "Who gets to call themselves a Hoosier?" The word is a familiar nickname for a person from Indiana, but its exact origin is uncertain. Some people at the meeting point to birthplace. Others think choosing to build a life in the state matters more. Both views raise a question: Does belonging come from where someone started, where someone lives now, or what someone contributes? The group decides not to vote on a single rule. Instead, they listen to three neighbors whose ties to Indiana began in different ways.

2 Elena was born in Fort Wayne and now lives in Illinois while attending college. She calls herself a Hoosier when she tells classmates about the public library that shaped her childhood. Malik, a nurse, moved to Indianapolis five years ago and lives there. He volunteers at a neighborhood food pantry and says Indiana is home, although he was born elsewhere. Ruth is a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, an Indigenous nation with historical ties to land in what is now Indiana. She asks the group to remember that Indiana had communities long before it became a state in 1816. Their stories complicate any simple checklist.

3 After hearing them, one neighbor suggests a test based only on an Indiana birth certificate. That test would include Elena but leave out Malik, despite the home and relationships he has built in Indianapolis. Another neighbor suggests that anyone who lives in Indiana counts, yet this measure might overlook people like Elena, whose connections continue after a move. Ruth's point adds another layer: calling a place home should not erase the people whose history there predates the state's name. The group leaves with a more useful question than "Who qualifies?" They ask what each person means when using the word.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Elena's story suggest about whether someone must currently live in Indiana to call themselves a Hoosier?

2. How does Malik's story challenge the idea that only people born in Indiana can be Hoosiers?

3. Why does Ruth's reminder matter when people describe Indiana as home?

4. What does each proposed test for belonging miss? Use Elena and Malik as evidence.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a classmate who moved to Indiana this year and helps organize a neighborhood cleanup. In 80 to 110 words, argue whether the classmate could reasonably call themselves a Hoosier, consider a different view, and explain how Indiana's earlier communities should shape what you say.

ANSWER KEY

# Who Belongs Here?



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail showing each person's tie to Indiana, circle the two proposed tests for belonging, and put a star beside Ruth's reminder about the past. Use your marks to compare what people mean by "Hoosier." Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does Elena's story suggest about whether someone must currently live in Indiana to call themselves a Hoosier? | **Elena calls herself a Hoosier while living in Illinois. Her memories and childhood in Indiana remain part of her connection.** |
| 2 | How does Malik's story challenge the idea that only people born in Indiana can be Hoosiers? | **Malik was born elsewhere, but he lives in Indianapolis, calls Indiana home, and volunteers in his neighborhood.** |
| 3 | Why does Ruth's reminder matter when people describe Indiana as home? | **It reminds people to recognize Indigenous communities whose history on the land began before Indiana became a state.** |
| 4 | What does each proposed test for belonging miss? Use Elena and Malik as evidence. | **A birthplace-only test leaves out Malik, who has made a home in Indiana. A current-residence test leaves out Elena, whose connection continues while she lives in Illinois.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A classmate who moved to Indiana this year and organizes a neighborhood cleanup could reasonably call themselves a Hoosier. They live here and take responsibility for a shared place, even though their ties are still new. Someone who uses birthplace as the only test might disagree because the classmate was born elsewhere. But that test ignores people who make a home here later. I would not say that present residents created Indiana's story alone. Indigenous communities have histories on this land that began before statehood, and the classmate can acknowledge those histories while building a connection of their own.

Accept reasoned views that use the passage to distinguish birthplace, residence, and continuing ties. For the open task, accept either position if it addresses a competing view and acknowledges Indigenous history before statehood.