

Councils and Clans

Compare how two Native American groups organized and governed their communities.

4.2b "Native American groups developed specific patterns of organization and governance to manage their societies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts that show how either group organized people or made decisions. Circle one fact that shows how the groups were alike, and number one fact that shows how they were different.

Managing Communities

- ① Before European contact, the Haudenosaunee lived in communities across much of what is now New York State. Five nations, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca, formed a confederacy. Each nation kept its own local leaders, but the nations also sent leaders, called sachems, to a Grand Council. This council considered matters that affected the whole confederacy.
- ② Haudenosaunee people belonged to clans, such as Bear, Wolf, or Turtle. Clan membership came through a person's mother. Clan mothers had important responsibilities: they chose sachems and could remove them when leaders failed to do their duties. At the Grand Council, sachems worked to reach agreement instead of having one leader decide alone. Wampum belts helped preserve important agreements and laws.
- ③ The Munsee were an Algonquian-speaking people who lived in smaller communities in the Hudson and Delaware river valleys. Like the Haudenosaunee, Munsee people had clans connected through mothers. Munsee sachems led communities and met with other leaders to discuss concerns. Both groups used leaders, councils, and clan systems. The Haudenosaunee also had a large confederacy that joined several nations under a Grand Council.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kind of matters did the Haudenosaunee Grand Council consider?

2 How did clan mothers take part in Haudenosaunee government?

3 Name two ways the Haudenosaunee and Munsee organized their societies in similar ways.

4 What was one important difference between Haudenosaunee and Munsee governance?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a plan for a new community with three villages. In 3 or 4 sentences, explain how people belong to families or clans, how leaders are chosen, how shared decisions happen, and how agreements are remembered. Use at least two ideas from the passage, but make your own plan.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline facts that show how either group organized people or made decisions. Circle one fact that shows how the groups were alike, and number one fact that shows how they were different. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of matters did the Haudenosaunee Grand Council consider?	It considered matters that affected the whole Haudenosaunee confederacy.
2	How did clan mothers take part in Haudenosaunee government?	They chose sachems and could remove sachems who failed to do their duties.
3	Name two ways the Haudenosaunee and Munsee organized their societies in similar ways.	Both had clans connected through mothers, and both had sachems or leaders who helped lead communities.
4	What was one important difference between Haudenosaunee and Munsee governance?	The Haudenosaunee joined several nations in a large confederacy with a Grand Council, while the Munsee lived in smaller communities led by sachems.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In River Bend, each child belongs to the same clan as their mother. Clan elders choose one leader from each village. The leaders meet in a council and keep talking until they agree on shared rules. They remember each agreement with a patterned belt and a spoken story.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately identifies the passage details. For the open response, accept varied community plans that include at least two ideas from the passage and explain organization, leadership, decisions, and record keeping.