

Community and Council

Find how shared culture and governance shaped a Haudenosaunee society.

5.1c "Early peoples living together in settlements developed shared cultures with customs, beliefs, values, and languages that give identity to the group..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show shared culture, such as customs, beliefs, values, or language.
Circle details that show how people organized or governed their society.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy

- ① Long ago, Haudenosaunee peoples built villages in the woodlands near the Great Lakes. Several families lived in longhouses, large homes made with wooden poles and bark. Villagers grew corn, beans, and squash and gathered food from nearby forests and waters. Living close together meant that people needed shared ways to work, celebrate, and solve problems.
- ② Haudenosaunee identity grew from shared customs, beliefs, values, and languages. For example, many people followed clan relationships, such as Wolf, Bear, or Turtle. Clan members helped one another and had duties to their relatives. The Great Law of Peace taught that people should seek peace, unity, and a good mind when making important choices for the community.
- ③ To govern the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, leaders from several nations met in a Grand Council. Each nation kept control of its own local matters, while the council discussed concerns shared by the nations. Clan mothers had an important role in choosing male leaders, called sachems, and could remove them. Council members worked to reach agreement instead of deciding by a simple majority vote.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two shared culture details from the passage that helped give Haudenosaunee people a group identity.

2 What values did the Great Law of Peace teach people to use when making important community choices?

3 How did the Grand Council and each individual nation share the work of governing?

4 What role did clan mothers have in choosing and managing leaders?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a settlement called River Stone. Write three sentences that describe one shared culture feature and one way the settlement governs itself. Explain how each feature helps the community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show shared culture, such as customs, beliefs, values, or language. Circle details that show how people organized or governed their society. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two shared culture details from the passage that helped give Haudenosaunee people a group identity.	Answers may include clan relationships, shared customs, beliefs, values, languages, the Great Law of Peace, or the values of peace, unity, and a good mind.
2	What values did the Great Law of Peace teach people to use when making important community choices?	People should seek peace, unity, and a good mind.
3	How did the Grand Council and each individual nation share the work of governing?	Each nation managed its own local matters, while the Grand Council discussed concerns shared by the nations.
4	What role did clan mothers have in choosing and managing leaders?	Clan mothers chose male leaders, called sachems, and could remove them.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In River Stone, families greet one another with the word "tama," meaning friend, and share a harvest meal each autumn. This custom and shared word help the people feel like one group. A council with one chosen speaker from each family meets to settle village problems, so everyone has a voice.

Accept culture features that clearly show a shared custom, belief, value, or language and a governance pattern that explains how decisions are managed. The response should explain how both features support the community.