A Nation Governs

Read how the Cherokee Nation makes decisions and serves its people.

3.C.1.2 "Describe how American Indian Tribal governments are also based upon written constitutions and exercise the right to govern themselves (sovereignty) by making laws for Tribal lands and citizens, providing for schools and healthcare..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that explains sovereignty. Circle the sentence about making laws, then number three ways the Cherokee Nation serves or supports its people.

The Cherokee Nation at Work

1. Imagine a family visiting a Cherokee Nation health center in Oklahoma. The Cherokee Nation is an American Indian Tribal nation with its own government. Like the United States and many states, it has a written constitution. This document explains how its government works. It describes government leaders and gives their offices jobs. This written plan helps the nation make decisions for its people.

2. The Cherokee Nation has a right called sovereignty. This means it can govern itself. Its council makes laws for the nation, including laws that affect Cherokee Nation lands and citizens. Its principal chief helps carry out those laws. For example, a Tribal law can set rules for caring for land. The nation makes many of its own choices about its community.

3. The Cherokee Nation also serves its people in daily life. It runs health centers where citizens can get care. It supports schools and programs that help children learn. Some programs teach the Cherokee language and other traditions. By making laws and supporting these services, the Tribal government helps its citizens today while keeping Cherokee culture strong for the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the written constitution help the Cherokee Nation govern itself?

2. How do the council and principal chief show that the Cherokee Nation governs itself?

3. Name one service the Cherokee Nation provides or supports. How does it help people?

4. How can teaching the Cherokee language help the nation preserve its culture?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a Tribal council planning a community garden on its land. Write three sentences explaining how a written constitution, the council's right to make laws, and a school or health program could guide the plan. Include a way the garden could help preserve a community tradition.

ANSWER KEY

A Nation Governs

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that explains sovereignty. Circle the sentence about making laws, then number three ways the Cherokee Nation serves or supports its people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the written constitution help the Cherokee Nation govern itself?	**It explains how the government works and what jobs its leaders' offices have.**
2	How do the council and principal chief show that the Cherokee Nation governs itself?	**The council makes laws for the nation, and the principal chief helps carry them out.**
3	Name one service the Cherokee Nation provides or supports. How does it help people?	**Health centers provide care for citizens. Also accept schools or programs that help children learn.**
4	How can teaching the Cherokee language help the nation preserve its culture?	**It helps people learn and continue a Cherokee tradition.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A written constitution tells the Tribal council how to make decisions about the garden. Because the nation governs itself, the council can make a law to care for the garden on Tribal land. A school program could teach children to grow plants used in a community food tradition.

Accept reasonable garden plans that give the constitution, a Tribal law, and a school or health program distinct roles. The response should also connect the garden to preserving a community tradition.