Two Citizenships

Trace changing rights and continuing tribal self-government

4.C.1.2 "Analyze the historical development of American Indian citizenship and constitutional rights in the United States of America. Examine how tribal sovereignty and United States of America citizenship function within the United States of..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline 1924, 1948, and 1965 and the change linked to each year. Circle two ways the Cherokee Nation governs itself.

Citizenship and Tribal Nations

1. In 1923, some American Indians were already U.S. citizens, but others were not. The U.S. government had used different rules to decide who could be a citizen. In 1924, a new law made all American Indians born in the United States U.S. citizens. This did not end their citizenship in their tribal nations. A person could belong to a tribal nation and be a U.S. citizen.

2. Citizenship did not always mean a fair chance to vote. After 1924, some states still blocked American Indian voters. In 1948, court decisions in Arizona and New Mexico struck down state rules that kept many American Indians from voting. Other barriers remained. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned voting rules that treated people unfairly because of race. Rights written in law had to be defended in real life.

3. Today, imagine Lena, a citizen of both the Cherokee Nation and the United States. As a U.S. citizen, she has rights under the U.S. Constitution, including freedom of speech. When she is old enough, she can vote in U.S. elections if she meets voting rules. The Cherokee Nation is sovereign: it has its own government and can decide who qualifies for tribal citizenship. Its eligible citizens also choose tribal leaders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1924 law change U.S. citizenship for American Indians born in the United States?

2. Why did the 1948 court decisions matter even though the 1924 law had made American Indians U.S. citizens?

3. How did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 address a problem that the 1924 law had not solved?

4. How can Lena take part in choosing leaders in two different governments?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Lena's younger cousin thinks a person can belong to only one nation. Write a three- or four-sentence reply to the cousin. Use a historical date, a U.S. constitutional right, and one decision the Cherokee Nation makes to explain why the cousin is mistaken.

ANSWER KEY

Two Citizenships

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline 1924, 1948, and 1965 and the change linked to each year. Circle two ways the Cherokee Nation governs itself. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1924 law change U.S. citizenship for American Indians born in the United States?	**Before 1924, some were U.S. citizens and others were not. The law made all American Indians born in the United States U.S. citizens.**
2	Why did the 1948 court decisions matter even though the 1924 law had made American Indians U.S. citizens?	**Some states still blocked American Indians from voting. The court decisions struck down such rules in Arizona and New Mexico.**
3	How did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 address a problem that the 1924 law had not solved?	**The 1924 law gave U.S. citizenship, but voting barriers remained. The 1965 law banned voting rules that discriminated by race.**
4	How can Lena take part in choosing leaders in two different governments?	**When eligible, Lena can vote in U.S. elections. As an eligible Cherokee Nation citizen, she can also help choose tribal leaders.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

You can be a citizen of both the Cherokee Nation and the United States. The 1924 law gave U.S. citizenship to American Indians born in the United States, but it did not end tribal citizenship. As a U.S. citizen, you have freedom of speech under the Constitution. The Cherokee Nation still has its own government and decides who qualifies for tribal citizenship.

Accept answers that distinguish U.S. citizenship from access to voting and explain that tribal self-government continues alongside U.S. citizenship. For the open task, check for an accurate date, a constitutional right, and a Cherokee Nation decision.