Trade Between Nations

Read how the Constitution addresses trade with Tribal Nations.

5.C.6.4.A "Describe how the Commerce Clause of the Constitution establishes a nation-to-nation relationship between the United States of America and Tribal governments."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that gives Congress a role in trade with Tribal Nations, then circle the two governments in the nation-to-nation relationship.

A Market by the River

1. Imagine a Tribal Nation running a market beside a river. Its government sets rules for the market, and visitors come to buy baskets from local makers. A state government may have rules for businesses outside the Tribal Nation's lands. But when the U.S. government deals with trade involving a Tribal Nation, which part of the Constitution gives Congress a role?

2. The Commerce Clause is part of Article I of the Constitution. It gives Congress power to regulate commerce, or trade, "with the Indian Tribes." Congress is the lawmaking part of the U.S. government. The Constitution names Tribal Nations separately from states and foreign nations. This shows that Tribal Nations are political communities, not simply groups of people buying and selling things.

3. Tribal Nations governed themselves before the United States existed, and they still have their own governments. The Commerce Clause gives Congress a role in trade with them. It does not create Tribal governments or give Congress every power over them. A federal trade rule might matter at the river market. The relationship behind that rule is between the U.S. government and a Tribal government, a nation-to-nation relationship.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the Constitution name Tribal Nations differently from states and foreign nations?

2. Why is the Tribal Nation in the passage more than a group of shoppers at the market?

3. When Congress makes a rule about trade with a Tribal Nation, which two governments are part of the nation-to-nation relationship?

4. Does the Commerce Clause create Tribal governments or give Congress every power over them? Explain what it does give Congress power to do.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A Tribal Nation runs a seed shop that sells seeds to visitors. Write three sentences explaining how the Commerce Clause connects the U.S. government and the Tribal government. Include what Congress can do and one thing the clause does not do.

ANSWER KEY

Trade Between Nations

GRADE 5 · 5.C.6.4.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that gives Congress a role in trade with Tribal Nations, then circle the two governments in the nation-to-nation relationship. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the Constitution name Tribal Nations differently from states and foreign nations?	**It names Tribal Nations separately, using the words "with the Indian Tribes."**
2	Why is the Tribal Nation in the passage more than a group of shoppers at the market?	**It has its own government, which can set rules for its market.**
3	When Congress makes a rule about trade with a Tribal Nation, which two governments are part of the nation-to-nation relationship?	**The U.S. government and the Tribal government.**
4	Does the Commerce Clause create Tribal governments or give Congress every power over them? Explain what it does give Congress power to do.	**No. Tribal governments existed before the United States. The clause gives Congress power to regulate trade with Tribal Nations.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Tribal Nation has its own government, which existed before the United States. The Commerce Clause gives Congress power to make federal rules about trade with Tribal Nations, including trade involving this seed shop. This connects the U.S. government and the Tribal government in a nation-to-nation relationship, but the clause does not create the Tribal government.

Accept answers that identify the United States and the Tribal Nation as governments and describe Congress's power over trade with Tribal Nations. Do not accept claims that the Commerce Clause created Tribal governments or gives Congress every power over them.