Two Kinds of Citizenship

Read how Tribal governments and United States citizenship work together.

5.C.6.4 "Analyze the historical development of American Indian Citizenship and constitutional rights in the United States of America, including the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what changed in 1924, circle two powers of Tribal governments, and number the two governments named in the nation-to-nation relationship. Use your marks to explain how both governments have a role.

A River, Two Governments

1. Imagine a Tribal council deciding how to protect a river where its citizens fish. A Tribal government can make and enforce laws, manage lands and natural resources, provide services, and set its own rules for Tribal citizenship. Tribal citizenship and United States citizenship are different. A person can hold both. The Tribal government makes decisions for its nation, while United States citizenship connects a person to the federal government.

2. For many years, not every American Indian was a United States citizen. Some gained citizenship through treaties or other federal laws. In 1924, Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act, which granted United States citizenship to American Indians born in the United States who did not already have it. The act did not end Tribal citizenship or Tribal governments. United States citizens have constitutional protections, yet some states kept American Indian citizens from voting for years.

3. Why do both governments have a role? The Constitution's Commerce Clause gives Congress power to regulate commerce "with the Indian Tribes." By naming Tribes separately from states, it recognizes them as distinct political communities. This supports a nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and Tribal governments. Congress has powers in this relationship, but Tribal governments also keep powers to govern their citizens and communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did United States citizenship for American Indians change in 1924, and what did not end?

2. Why did the 1924 law not mean that every American Indian citizen could vote right away?

3. How does the Commerce Clause support a nation-to-nation relationship?

4. If a Tribal council makes a law to protect the river, which government is using its power? How can a council member also be connected to the other government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A Tribal nation plans to open a health clinic for its citizens. Write a short explanation of how Tribal citizenship, United States citizenship, and the relationship between the two governments could all matter in this situation. Include a fact about the 1924 law and a Tribal government power.

ANSWER KEY

Two Kinds of Citizenship

GRADE 5 · 5.C.6.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what changed in 1924, circle two powers of Tribal governments, and number the two governments named in the nation-to-nation relationship. Use your marks to explain how both governments have a role. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did United States citizenship for American Indians change in 1924, and what did not end?	**The Indian Citizenship Act granted United States citizenship to American Indians born in the United States who did not already have it. Tribal citizenship and Tribal governments did not end.**
2	Why did the 1924 law not mean that every American Indian citizen could vote right away?	**Some states continued to keep American Indian citizens from voting.**
3	How does the Commerce Clause support a nation-to-nation relationship?	**It gives Congress power to regulate commerce with the Indian Tribes and names Tribes separately from states, recognizing them as distinct political communities.**
4	If a Tribal council makes a law to protect the river, which government is using its power? How can a council member also be connected to the other government?	**The Tribal government is using its power to make laws and manage natural resources. A council member can also be a United States citizen.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Tribal government could open a health clinic to meet its citizens' needs and use its own rules to decide Tribal citizenship. The 1924 law granted United States citizenship to American Indians born in the United States who did not already have it, without ending Tribal citizenship. The Commerce Clause names Tribes separately from states, supporting a nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and Tribal governments.

Accept other Tribal powers named in the passage when students explain how a government might serve its citizens. Students should distinguish Tribal citizenship from United States citizenship and should not claim that the 1924 law ended Tribal governments.