Who Holds Power?

Compare government limits and overlapping citizenship

6.C.5.1 "Compare systems of governments. Define and describe the characteristics of limited governments (constitutional republic, constitutional monarchy) and authoritarian systems (dictatorship, oligarchy, absolute monarchy)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways laws limit leaders, circle the people or groups described as rulers, and put a star beside a sentence that shows how tribal and U.S. citizenship can exist together.

Power, Limits, and Citizenship

1. Imagine a rule that says a leader may close every newspaper that disagrees with her. In a limited government, laws restrict leaders, and people have protected rights. A constitutional republic, such as the United States, has elected representatives who must follow a constitution. A constitutional monarchy, such as Canada, has a monarch as head of state, but elected leaders govern under constitutional limits. In authoritarian systems, rulers face few real checks. A dictator holds power alone, an oligarchy is ruled by a small group, and an absolute monarch rules without constitutional limits.

2. In the United States, voters elect members of Congress and a president. Courts can reject laws that break the Constitution. The president is both head of state and head of government. In Canada, voters elect members of the House of Commons, and the leader who has its support becomes prime minister. The prime minister leads the government, while a monarch is head of state. Canada's courts also review laws under its Constitution. Both systems limit leaders, but they divide these roles differently.

3. Tribal nations have sovereignty, or authority to govern many of their own affairs. In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act granted U.S. citizenship to American Indians born in the United States. It did not end tribal citizenship. A person may be both a tribal citizen and a U.S. citizen, with rights and duties in each community. Tribal governments decide membership and make some local laws. The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 protects certain individual rights against tribal government actions, although its protections are not identical to the U.S. Bill of Rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are the roles of head of state and head of government different in the United States and Canada?

2. What makes Canada's constitutional monarchy different from an absolute monarchy?

3. How do a dictatorship and an oligarchy differ, and what do they have in common?

4. How can a person have both tribal and U.S. citizenship, and what law protects rights against actions by tribal governments?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a state governor claims the power to choose a tribal nation's leaders and cancel its membership rules. Write four sentences explaining how tribal sovereignty challenges this claim, how one person can belong to both the tribal nation and the United States, and how a law named in the passage limits tribal government power.

ANSWER KEY

Who Holds Power?

GRADE 6 · 6.C.5.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways laws limit leaders, circle the people or groups described as rulers, and put a star beside a sentence that shows how tribal and U.S. citizenship can exist together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the roles of head of state and head of government different in the United States and Canada?	**The U.S. president holds both roles. In Canada, the monarch is head of state, while the prime minister leads the government.**
2	What makes Canada's constitutional monarchy different from an absolute monarchy?	**Canada's elected leaders govern under constitutional limits, and courts review laws. An absolute monarch rules without constitutional limits.**
3	How do a dictatorship and an oligarchy differ, and what do they have in common?	**A dictator holds power alone, while a small group rules an oligarchy. Both are authoritarian systems in which rulers face few real checks.**
4	How can a person have both tribal and U.S. citizenship, and what law protects rights against actions by tribal governments?	**The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 granted U.S. citizenship to American Indians born in the United States without ending tribal citizenship. The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 protects certain rights against tribal government actions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tribal sovereignty means the nation governs many of its own affairs, so a state governor cannot simply choose its leaders or cancel its membership rules. A person can be a citizen of both the tribal nation and the United States. That person has rights and duties in each community. The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 protects certain individual rights against tribal government actions.

Accept answers that distinguish the two national leadership roles and recognize that tribal sovereignty exists alongside U.S. citizenship. Students should not claim that tribal governments have unlimited power or that the 1924 law ended tribal citizenship.