Land and Law

Trace how federal policy changed Tribal land, membership, and rights.

OKH.C.3.1 "Examine the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction Treaties on American Indian peoples, territories, and Tribal sovereignty. Describe the effect of intertribal division related to Tribal support of the Union or Confederacy..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions that limited Tribal control of land, circle one change involving Tribal membership, and number the event that led to a court ruling about rights. Use your marks to track how federal power affected Tribal sovereignty.

From War to Reservations

1. During the Civil War, Creek people divided over whether to support the Union or the Confederacy. Opothleyahola led Union supporters, including people from several Nations, toward Kansas. Confederate attacks and winter hardship during their 1861 flight caused many deaths; the journey became known as the Trail of Blood on Ice. After the war, the 1866 Reconstruction Treaties forced land cessions and the end of slavery. They also addressed Freedpeople's citizenship and Tribal enrollment, though requirements differed among Nations. These terms reduced Tribal control over land and membership.

2. The Second Indian Removal pushed many Plains Nations onto reservations, limiting access to hunting grounds. Officials justified reservations as a way to prevent conflict and supply food and schooling, while opening land to settlers. President Grant's Peace Policy aimed to reduce warfare through religious reservation agents, yet it continued displacement and assimilation. In 1868, U.S. troops attacked Black Kettle's Cheyenne village at the Washita River, killing residents, including women and children. The attack increased pressure on Cheyennes to remain on reservations.

3. Fort Sill, built in 1869, supported campaigns confining Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache people to reservations. Black cavalry regiments called Buffalo Soldiers helped enforce federal Indian policy. Experiences differed: Plains hunters lost access to bison, while the Ponca were removed from Nebraska to Indian Territory, where many died. In 1879, after Ponca leader Standing Bear challenged his detention, a federal court ruled that an American Indian was a person who could seek habeas corpus, a court review of detention. This did not grant citizenship to all American Indians.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did divisions during the Civil War affect Opothleyahola's group?

2. How did the 1866 treaties affect Tribal control of land and membership?

3. How did the Peace Policy's stated goal differ from the effects of reservation policy described in the passage?

4. What right did the Standing Bear ruling recognize, and what did it not grant?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label titled “Who Controlled the Land and the Law?” Connect a treaty change, a reservation-era action, and the Standing Bear ruling to explain what changed for Tribal sovereignty and what did not.

ANSWER KEY

Land and Law

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions that limited Tribal control of land, circle one change involving Tribal membership, and number the event that led to a court ruling about rights. Use your marks to track how federal power affected Tribal sovereignty. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did divisions during the Civil War affect Opothleyahola's group?	**Opothleyahola led Union supporters toward Kansas, where Confederate attacks and winter hardship during their flight caused many deaths.**
2	How did the 1866 treaties affect Tribal control of land and membership?	**They forced land cessions and addressed Freedpeople's citizenship and enrollment, reducing Tribal control over land and membership.**
3	How did the Peace Policy's stated goal differ from the effects of reservation policy described in the passage?	**Grant aimed to reduce warfare, but reservation policy displaced people and limited access to hunting grounds.**
4	What right did the Standing Bear ruling recognize, and what did it not grant?	**It recognized that an American Indian could seek court review of detention through habeas corpus. It did not grant citizenship to all American Indians.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 1866 treaties forced land cessions and changed rules affecting Tribal membership, limiting Tribal sovereignty. Later, Fort Sill supported campaigns that confined people to reservations and further restricted their control of land. Standing Bear's case recognized his right to challenge detention in court, but it did not restore Tribal land or grant citizenship to all American Indians.

Accept responses that accurately connect federal actions to limits on Tribal land or membership decisions. For the museum label, look for all three required events and a distinction between the right recognized in Standing Bear's case and rights it did not establish.