Whose Statehood?

Competing plans and reforms on the road to Oklahoma statehood

OKH.C.4 "Analyze significant issues encountered on the path to statehood. Describe the effects of the Curtis Act of 1898 and evaluate the outcome of the Indian-led movement to secure a separate statehood for Indian Territory..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each proposed path to statehood, circle its outcome, and number the laws that changed the path.

One State, Many Plans

1. In 1890, the Organic Act organized Oklahoma Territory with its own government and established federal courts in Indian Territory. It did not join the two territories. African Americans continued moving into the region, seeking land, safety, and political power. Edward McCabe promoted an all-Black state in Oklahoma Territory and helped build the town of Langston. His statehood plan did not succeed, but Black communities, businesses, and schools took root. Different groups imagined sharply different futures for the region.

2. In Indian Territory, the Curtis Act of 1898 expanded federal control, weakened tribal courts, and advanced the division of communally held tribal lands into individual allotments. Leaders of the Five Tribes sought another path: a separate state called Sequoyah. Their 1905 convention drafted a constitution with a governor, a legislature, courts, and a bill of rights. Indian Territory voters approved the proposal, but Congress did not admit Sequoyah. Instead, the 1906 Enabling Act authorized a convention to write one constitution for Oklahoma and Indian territories together.

3. At the joint constitutional convention, national Progressive ideas met local demands for reform. Delegates included ways to make officials answerable to voters, including the initiative and referendum, which let citizens propose or reject laws. Kate Barnard pressed for limits on child labor and stronger public education. The resulting constitution reflected these goals, although its benefits were not shared equally. Voters approved it on September 17, 1907. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Oklahoma a single state on November 16, 1907, ending the separate-state campaigns.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Organic Act and Enabling Act move the region toward statehood in different ways?

2. How did the Curtis Act affect tribal self-government, and what happened to the separate-state plan that followed?

3. How did the outcome of McCabe's statehood plan differ from the outcome of continued African American migration?

4. What two actions completed the steps toward statehood after the convention wrote its constitution?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label arguing whether Oklahoma statehood brought both change and loss. Include the Sequoyah plan, one Progressive reform, and a fact that supports your judgment.

Whose Statehood?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each proposed path to statehood, circle its outcome, and number the laws that changed the path. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Organic Act and Enabling Act move the region toward statehood in different ways?	**The Organic Act organized Oklahoma Territory and established federal courts in Indian Territory. The Enabling Act authorized a convention to write a constitution for one state.**
2	How did the Curtis Act affect tribal self-government, and what happened to the separate-state plan that followed?	**The act weakened tribal courts and advanced allotment. Indian Territory voters approved Sequoyah, but Congress did not admit it.**
3	How did the outcome of McCabe's statehood plan differ from the outcome of continued African American migration?	**The all-Black state was not established, but African American communities, businesses, and schools grew.**
4	What two actions completed the steps toward statehood after the convention wrote its constitution?	**Voters approved the constitution on September 17, 1907, and Roosevelt proclaimed statehood on November 16, 1907.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Oklahoma statehood brought both change and loss. The new constitution gave voters the initiative and referendum, expanding their power over laws. Yet Congress did not admit Sequoyah, even after Indian Territory voters approved its proposal. Supporters of a separate state lost the path they had chosen.

Accept other supported judgments that distinguish a reform achieved from a statehood goal left unmet. Students may cite Barnard's work on child labor or public education instead of the initiative and referendum.