

# Governmental Responsibilities: Community, Tribal, State, Federal

## Fast Facts

Curriculum Area: Social Studies  
Grade Level: Grade 4  
Suggested Duration: Three-four 50-minute periods

## Stage 1 Desired Results

### Established Goals

**GLE 4.2.4** Students analyze how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance, as a way to understand the operation of government, and to demonstrate civic responsibility.

### Understandings

- Under the American legal system, Indian tribes have sovereign powers.
- These powers are separate and independent from the federal and state governments.
- The extent and breadth of tribal sovereignty is not the same for each tribe.

### Essential Questions

- What is sovereignty?
- How does tribal sovereignty compare with federal and state governments?
- In what ways do sovereign nations affect people in Montana?

### Students will be able to...

- demonstrate knowledge of why Montana Indian tribes are considered nations and have their own governments.
- recognize local and tribal governments and leaders at these levels.
- compare and contrast the major responsibilities of their local government and Montana tribal government.

### Students will know...

- a definition for sovereignty.
- how tribal sovereignty compares with Montana government.

## Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

### Performance Tasks

1. Students will complete a Venn diagram, comparing and contrasting student's local government and one Montana tribal government (see worksheet at the end of lesson plan).

## Stage 3 Learning Plan

### Learning Activities:

Discuss the following (from Connecting Cultures and Classrooms):

- In general, tribal governments have the authority to make, apply, and enforce rules and laws for their reservations. They operate differently from place to place, however.
- In general, tribal governments do such things as:
  - decide who can be a member of the tribe;
  - establish police forces and tribal courts;
  - enter into agreements with state and local governments;
  - make laws/codes to provide for the health, welfare, and education of their members
  - Decide how tribal property can be used; and
  - ensure that tribal cultural integrity, including language, is preserved.
- Indian people from Montana tribes are citizens of their tribes/nations, the state of Montana and the United States.
- Tribal sovereignty is the nation-to-nation or government-to-government relationship between the United States government and tribes, and this relationship was established by more than 600 treaties ratified by the U.S. Congress and repeatedly reaffirmed by the Supreme Court and various Executive Orders. Tribal sovereignty is constantly threatened. Through better educational opportunities, more Indian leaders become poised to prevent continuing attacks on tribal sovereignty. Tribes have successfully used the legal system to advance their causes.

Contact a member of local government to come and talk to students about their local government duties and responsibilities. After the speaker has finished, have students, in small groups, record important points of the speaker's presentation. (These will be used later as they do research on a tribal government.) Students will use large pieces of butcher paper to record and these pieces will be hung around the room.

If a speaker from a tribal government can present, have students record important points as with the member of local government. If no tribal speaker is available, research on the Internet can be done on tribal government.

Students will review the seven reservations and twelve tribal nations, including the Little Shell Band of Chippewa.

Students will work with a partner. Pairs will select a reservation, and they will research that reservation's tribal government.

Students will use the attached tribal web sites (plus others they may find), and the books noted in Resources. They will research with the purpose of completing a Venn diagram. This diagram will compare and contrast their local government and the tribal government they are researching. Students should also use the information from their group's synopsis of local government to guide the information that they record from their research.

Students will complete the attached Venn diagram.

## Resources

### Books

Bryan, William L. Jr. *Montana's Indians, Yesterday and Today*. Photography by Michael Crummett. Helena, MT: Montana Magazine, Inc., 1985 ISBN: 0-938314-21-1 (Periodical)

*Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians*, Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2012.

*Connecting Cultures & Classrooms* K-12 Curriculum Guide, Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2006

*Montana Indians: Their History and Location*. Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2016.

Harvey, Karen. *Indian Country: A History of Native People in America*, 1994.

Montana Tribal Web sites and Newspapers:

(Although we have listed one website for each tribe, many more are available if a student performs a Google search)

### [Blackfeet Nation](#)

[Glacier Reporter](#): Official publication for the Town of Browning and the Blackfeet Reservation. 406-873-2201-2090, Cut Bank, MT.

### [Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation](#)

*The Rocky Boy Tribal Newsletter*. Chippewa Cree Tribe RR 1 Box 544, Box Elder, MT 59421

### [Crow Tribe](#)

[Big Horn County News](#). P.O. Box 926 Hardin, MT 59034; 406-665-1008

[Fort Belknap Indian Community](#). Assiniboine/Gros Ventre

[Fort Belknap News](#)

[Fort Peck Tribes](#). Assiniboine, Sioux

Fort Peck Journal. P.O. Box 351, Poplar, MT 59255; 406-768-5366

[Little Shell Tribe](#)

[Northern Cheyenne Tribe](#)

*Tribal Report* P.O. Box 128 Lame Deer, MT 59043 406-477-4822

[Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes](#)

[Char-Koosta News](#) : (ISSN 0893-8970), P.O. Box 98, Pablo, MT 59855; 406-675-3000

[Indian Country Today](#) (ISSN 1066-5501), 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478

[News from Indian Country](#) (ISSN 1548-4939) 8558N County Road K. Hayward, WI 54843; 715-634-5226

Web sites

[Office of Public Instruction, Indian Education Division,](#)

[Montana Official State Travel Site](#)

This website has general information about each tribal nation: Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Little Shell, Northern Cheyenne, Rocky Boy, One can search each of the tribes for "People, Location, Economy, Points of Interest" with Internet links to each, as well as finding information about Attractions, Events, Places to Stay, and Additional Visitor Information.

# VENN DIAGRAM

