

## Explore More—Economy and Government

**Directions:** Listen to your teacher talk about the economies and governments of the American Indian groups you read about in Unit 1. Circle any words you don't understand. Underline or highlight important ideas in the text. Write notes in the margins to help you understand key points. Then answer the questions in your own words.

### What is an economy?

Today, we use the word *economy* to describe the way in which a country runs its industry, trade, and finance. When we talk about the economies of early American Indians, we are referring to the ways in which they got the things that they needed—food, clothing, shelter, and so forth.

### What types of economies did early American Indians have?

Some groups grew the food that they ate. Others fished and hunted for food. All Indian groups made many of the things that they needed. For example, the Sioux used bison bones to make the tools they needed. Some groups, such as the Hopi and the Chilkat, traded with other Indian groups to get things they needed. For example, the Hopi often grew more corn or beans than they needed, and then they traded their extra crops for meat and animal hides. Unlike people today, these early Indian groups did not go to a store and buy what they needed using money. Their economies were based on trade.

### What is a government?

A government is the way a country or organization is controlled. The early American Indians you learned about each had their own way of controlling or running their group. There were rules that everyone in the group had to follow.

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## **What types of governments did the Hopi, Sioux, and Chilkat have?**

Each Hopi village had a leader called a kikmongwi. The kikmongwi was a religious leader. Elders and other village leaders helped the kikmongwi govern the village. The Hopi did not have written laws. When someone in the village did something wrong, the head of the family punished the person.

The Sioux people chose leaders to meet in a council to make decisions. Before the council made a decision, they asked the opinion of the entire tribe. The Sioux had customs, but not written laws.

The Chilkat chose leaders based on wealth and social standing. Social standing was inherited through mothers. The Chilkat made their decisions in clans or villages.

## **What is special about the Iroquois' government?**

The Iroquois had a government that, in many ways, is similar to the government in the United States today. In fact, a growing number of historians believe that the Iroquois form of government had a lasting effect on the American government. Benjamin Franklin, one of the drafters of the United States Constitution, is said to have admired the Iroquois form of government and borrowed many ideas from it.

The Iroquois government and American government share these features:

- Both national and local parts
- A democratic government in which the leaders are responsible to the people
- A constitution that includes the rights of freedom of speech and religion
- A way of keeping any one part of the government from having too much power

Both women and men participated in Iroquois government. Women appointed the chiefs and removed them if they did not do their jobs well. ❖

## YOUR TURN!

1. Write one question you have about the economy or government of one of the American Indian groups you studied.

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2. How could you find the answer to this question?

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3. How is the economy in the United States today different from the economy of the American Indians you studied?

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4. Name two similarities between the Iroquois government and the United States government.

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