



What is a Tribal Government?

Many Native Americans live on reservations, which are areas of land that are owned by a specific Native American tribe, or group. Each Native American tribe is in charge of its own tribal government. Tribal governments are not part of the local or state governments. They are under the supervision of the United States federal government. Native Americans serve on tribal councils, which make laws for the reservation.

The laws are a lot like the laws that our state governments make to protect the health, safety, and rights of the people. Tribal governments also provide their own services, such as police, fire, and courts for the people who live on the reservation.

Many tribal governments have written constitutions just like our state and federal

governments. A constitution is a written plan for how the government will work, including the duties and freedoms of the people, and the government. When there are disagreements or

court cases, the constitution is used to help resolve the issues.

Tribal governments help their people earn money so they can meet their needs. Some tribes create art or sing and dance in cultural performances on their reservations.

Visitors pay money to see artifacts in museums, attend performances, and buy original arts and crafts. Some tribes have casinos and other entertainment to bring in paying customers. Reservations

are located within states. Native Americans help our economy by spending their money on local businesses and services.



The Northern Cheyenne Reservation headquarters in Lama Deer, Montana.



Write It

Explain how a tribal government is similar to a local or state government. Be sure to include passages from the text to support your answer.

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