



WE ARE HERE!

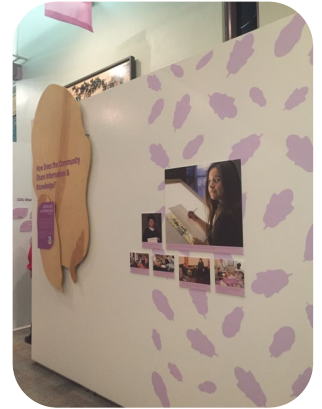
Voices & Hands Making Community Happen

High School Curriculum



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Voices & Hands Making Community Happen



We Are Here! Voices & Hands Making Community Happen is an exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum available to the public from June 11, 2018 through June 14, 2019. The exhibit tackles the complex idea of Tribal Sovereignty, or the ability of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to govern itself by exploring the role of various departments with the Tribe.

Our Exhibits Division consulted with staff from many departments to better understand how they serve the Tribe. The exhibit was organized around 5 main questions: “How does the community stay healthy?”, “How does the community stay safe?”, “How do Tribal Members share information and knowledge?”, “How is housing developed for Tribal members?” and “How are the Tribe’s resources, water, and land managed?”.

This curriculum was developed to enhance a Museum visit or as a standalone lesson so that students may better understand the concept of tribal sovereignty.



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Description

During this program students will gain a better understanding of tribal sovereignty by exploring Seminole government. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is a sovereign nation which means it has the ability to govern itself and take care of its people. Just as the US government has different departments that fill different roles, the Tribe has different departments to take care of its people. Students will examine articles about the Tribe in order to discover more about these departments. They will find a creative way to express their knowledge and share with the rest of the class.

Audience

High School students

Group Size

This activity is ideal for 15-25 students.

Time

60 minutes



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Goal

Students will understand that Seminoles have sovereignty or the ability to govern themselves. Different Tribal Departments work together to provide for Tribal Members.

Materials Needed

- Blackboard or white board and writing utensil
- Computers and internet access or printed articles (links provided)
- Writing utensils
- Colored Pencils
- Students' smart phones (depending on your school policies)

Florida State Standards

SS.912.C.4.1:

Explain how the world's nations are governed differently.

SS.912.C.3.13:

Illustrate examples of how government affects the daily lives of citizens at the local, state, and national levels.

SS.912.C.2.10:

Monitor current public issues in Florida.

SS.912.C.2.8:

Analyze the impact of citizen participation as a means of achieving political and social change.



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Activity **0-15 minutes: Introduction, What is Tribal Sovereignty?**

Ask students what it means to be a country. Write down their ideas on a board. What does their government do?

Explain that there are different types of government— city, county, state, and Tribal. Different places have different types of government. Ask students if they have ever been someplace different. Were there different laws?

Explain to students that the Seminole Tribe of Florida is a sovereign nation. This means that the Tribe has their own government and can choose how to live for themselves. Within Tribal Reservations, they set their own laws.

Share with students that Seminoles are one group of Native people. Native people lived in what is now America before Europeans came. There were many different Tribes and they were always sovereign or self-governing. Americans tried to take away Seminole lands during the Seminole War. Many Seminole people died, some were removed to Oklahoma, and few stayed in Florida to become the unconquered Seminoles.

In the 1950s the US government tried to take away Seminole sovereignty. Seminoles wrote the Buckskin Declaration in 1957 and sent it to then President Eisenhower:

“We have had for centuries our own customs, our own government, our own language, and our own way of life... We do say that we are not White Men but Indians, do not wish to become White Men but wish to remain Indians”

In 1957 they wrote their own constitution underneath the Council Oak Tree in Hollywood and they were federally recognized by the US government as sovereign.

Today the Tribe continues to govern itself and to take care of its people. Different departments work together to provide services to Tribal Members in a culturally appropriate way.

*Images are provided on pages 7 and 8



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Activity *10-30 minutes: How does the Tribe take care of its people?*

Have students split into 5 groups to explore different questions of how the Tribe takes care of its people. They will read different articles from the Seminole Tribune. You may print these articles off in advance or provide the links to students.

Ask them to use the information in the articles to answer their question. Which Tribal Departments are involved? What do they do?

Group 1: How does the Tribe develop housing?

~Tribalwide Housing Plan Unveiled

<http://seminoletribune.org/tribalwide-housing-plan-unveiled/>

~New Housing Brings Tribal Members Home

<http://seminoletribune.org/new-housing-brings-tribal-members-home/>

Group 2: How does the Tribe manage its resources?

~ERMD Balances Needs Of Wildlife And Community On Reservations

<http://seminoletribune.org/ermd-balances-needs-of-wildlife-and-community-on-reservations/>

~ Students Get Connected To Public Works With Hands-On Experience

<http://seminoletribune.org/students-get-connected-to-public-works-with-hands-on-experience/>

~Brighton Establishes Preserve To Protect Endangered Panther

<http://seminoletribune.org/brighton-establishes-preserve-to-protect-endangered-panther/>



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Activity

Group 3: How do Tribe share information and knowledge?

~Ahfachkee Graduates Take The Stage

<http://seminoletribune.org/ahfachkee-graduates-take-the-stage/>

~Education Expo Pushes For Tribal Success

<http://seminoletribune.org/education-expo-pushes-for-tribal-success/>

~SMP Workshop Reveals How It's Done Behind The Scenes

<http://seminoletribune.org/smp-workshop-reveals-how-its-done-behind-the-scenes/>

~Seminole Tribune

<https://www.semtribe.com/SeminoleTribune/AboutUs.aspx>

Group 4: How does the community stay healthy?

~18th Annual Rez Rally Sheds Some Color On Diabetes

<http://seminoletribune.org/18th-annual-rez-rally-sheds-some-color-on-diabetes/>

~Big Cypress Captures Trike Fest

<http://seminoletribune.org/big-cypress-captures-trike-fest/>

~Boys and Girls Club Springs Into Fitness

<http://seminoletribune.org/boys-girls-club-springs-fitness/>

~Reservation Health Fair Spreads Wealth of Health

<http://seminoletribune.org/reservation-health-fair-spreads-wealth-of-health/>



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Activity Group 5: How does the community stay safe?

~Multiple Departments Tackle Issues During Busy Fire Season

<http://seminoletribune.org/busy-fire-season/>

~SPD Drug-Sniffing Canine Has A Nose That Knows

<http://seminoletribune.org/spd-drug-sniffing-canine-has-a-nose-that-knows/>

~Agencies Unite To Handle Hurricane Irma

<http://seminoletribune.org/agencies-unite-to-handle-hurricane-irma/>

30-50 minutes: Getting Creative

Have students in their groups create a way to share what they have just learned. They can write a song or a rap, create a short video, draw a comic strip, or develop a series of memes.

50-60 minutes: Conclusion, Sharing Their Knowledge

Have students share what they created with the other groups.



The Constitution and Charter meeting on the Dania (now Hollywood) Reservation meeting under the Council Oak Tree, a live oak. This was part of a series of meetings on the reservations to develop and vote on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Constitution.

To THE MOST HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
 DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
 OUR MOST SOLEMN AND RESPECTFUL GREETINGS

WE, THE GENERAL COUNCIL, BEING THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MIKASUKI TRIBE OF SEMINOLE INDIANS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, HAVE MET IN FORMAL COUNCIL IN THE EVERGLADES IN THIS TIME OF DECISION TO OUR TRIBE AND APPEAL TO YOU AS A GREAT LEADER OF YOUR PEOPLE TO DISPENSE THE JUSTICE WHICH WILL PRESERVE OUR FREEDOM, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND INDEPENDENCE.

WE, UNCONQUERED, HAVE BEEN AT PEACE WITH YOUR NATION FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS. OUR HISTORY TELLS US THAT IN THE PAST TREATIES HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE NATIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND SPAIN, RECOGNIZING AND ENTITLING US TO VAST PORTIONS OF LANDS IN WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

WHEN YOUR NATION IN 1821 MADE A TREATY WITH THE COUNTRY OF SPAIN YOU AGREED TO RECOGNIZE OUR PROPERTY RIGHTS IN SUCH OF THOSE LANDS THAT AT THAT TIME WERE RECOGNIZED BY SPAIN. SUBSEQUENTLY YOUR NATION MADE TREATIES WITH OUR INDEPENDENT NATION, ALL OF WHICH WERE DISHONORED BY YOUR NATION EITHER BY FAILURE TO ACT OR BY PROVOKED WARS.

UNDER THE LAST TREATY YOUR NATION MADE WITH OUR NATION WE WERE ENTITLED TO ALL OF THOSE LANDS AS SHOWN BY THE "MAP OF SEAT OF WAR IN FLORIDA COMPILED BY ORDER OF BRIG. GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR, PRINCIPALLY FROM THE SURVEYS AND RECONNAISSANCES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE U.S. ARMY BY CAPT. JOHN MACKAY AND LT. J. E. BLAKE" IN 1839, AS WELL AS THE LANDS DUE US UNDER VARIOUS OTHER TREATIES.

WE, THE MIKASUKI TRIBE OF THE SEMINOLE NATION, HAVE MADE NO REQUESTS OF ANY KIND UPON YOUR GOVERNMENT SINCE THE MC COMB TREATY OF 1839. WE HAVE NEVER ASKED FOR NOR TAKEN ANY ASSISTANCE, IN MONEY OR IN ANY OTHER THING, FROM YOUR NATION.

WE HAVE FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS LIVED ON LANDS IN THE EVERGLADES, SOME OF WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED AS INDIAN RESERVATIONS, AND FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS WE HAVE NOT BEEN DISCONTENT WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP, BECAUSE YOU LET US ALONE AND WE LET YOU ALONE. FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS WE HAVE NOT ALLOWED THE CONDUCT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DISTURB US IN SPITE OF MANY INSULTS TO OUR NATION, CHIEF OF WHICH HAS BEEN THE DELIBERATE CONFUSION OF OUR MIKASUKI TRIBE OF SEMINOLE INDIANS, GOVERNED BY OUR GENERAL COUNCIL, WITH THE MUSKOGEE TRIBE OF SEMINOLE INDIANS IN ORDER TO AVOID RECOGNITION OF OUR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, INDEPENDENCE, RIGHTS AND CUSTOMS.

NOW, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS, WE ARE OBLIGED TO ADDRESS OURSELVES TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.

THERE HAS BEEN HEARD BEFORE THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION IN YOUR GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT OUR AUTHORITY, A CLAIM, SUPPOSEDLY ON OUR BEHALF, SUPPOSEDLY TO COMPENSATE OUR TRIBE WITH MONEY FOR LANDS TAKEN FROM US BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST. WE WANT NO MONEY. THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERING LAWS TO MAKE US EQUAL SUPPLY TO WHITE MEN, AND TO TAKE AWAY WHAT LITTLE TRIBAL LANDS YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS LEFT US. ALL UNDER THE THEORY THAT OUR TRIBE WANTS TO BE OR SHOULD BE TREATED AS WHITE MEN WITH THE RIGHTS OF WHITE MEN TO OWN INDIVIDUAL LAND.

WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR WISHES, OUR CUSTOMS AND OUR VIEW AS A TRIBE THROUGH OUR GENERAL COUNCIL WHICH GOVERNS US TO YOUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT HAVE BEEN IGNORED, GIVEN LITTLE COURTESY AND MUCH INSULT, LOCAL INDIAN AGENT INTERFERING IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAD YOUR SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TELL US TO CHANGE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH WE HAVE LIVED FOR CENTURIES.

WE HAVE HAD FOR CENTURIES OUR OWN CUSTOMS, OUR OWN GOVERNMENT, OUR OWN LANGUAGE, AND OUR OWN WAY OF LIFE WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE GOVERNMENTS, THE CULTURE, THE CUSTOMS, THE LANGUAGE, AND THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE WHITE MAN. WE DO NOT SAY THAT WE ARE SUPERIOR OR INFERIOR TO THE WHITE MAN AND WE DO NOT SAY THAT THE WHITE MAN IS SUPERIOR OR INFERIOR TO US.

WE DO NOT SAY THAT WE ARE NOT WHITE MEN BUT INDIANS. WE DO NOT WISH TO BECOME WHITE MEN BUT WISH TO REMAIN INDIANS AND HAVE AN OUTLOOK ON ALL OF THESE THINGS DIFFERENT FROM THE OUTLOOK OF THE WHITE MAN. WE DO NOT WANT TO OWN LANDS BECAUSE OUR LAND IS FOR ALL OF US. WE LIVE IN OUR LAND, WHICH IS THE LAND OF ALL OF OUR TRIBE, AND WE LIVE FROM OUR LAND WHICH IS THE LAND OF OUR TRIBE. WE HAVE FRAMED TO HAVE YOUR INDIAN AGENT OR YOUR SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OR YOUR OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND OUR OUTLOOK.

WE ARE THEREFORE SOLEMNLY AND RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT YOU APPOINT A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET WITH US, WHO IS NOT CONNECTED WITH ANY BRANCH OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, WHO IS FAIR AND IMPARTIAL, WHO WILL BE INSTRUCTED BY YOU TO MEET WITH US SO THAT WE MAY MAKE OURSELVES UNDERSTOOD TO HIM, SO THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND US AND SO THAT A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN OUR NATION AND YOUR NATION ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE LANDS TO WHICH WE ARE ENTITLED UNDER ALL PAST TREATIES, UNDER THE LAW OF NATIONS, AND UNDER JUSTICE, AND THE RECOGNITION OF OUR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, THE GENERAL COUNCIL, SO THAT WE AND YOU MAY LIVE TOGETHER IN THIS LAND WHICH WAS ALL ONCE OUR LAND.

SIGNED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON THE 26 DAY OF FEBRUARY 1954.

- X SAM JONES MICCO
- X INGRAHAM BILLIE
- X JIMMIE BILLIE
- X OSCAR HOE
- X FRANK CHARLIE
- X JIMMIE HENRY
- X WILNIE JIM
- X GEORGE OSCEOLA
- X JACK CLAY
- X TOMMY BOSTER

TRANSLATED, INTERPRETED,
 AND WITNESSED BY
 BUFFALO TIGER

Seminoles wrote this Buckskin Declaration, declaring their right to keep their own customs, language, and to govern themselves. They presented it to President Eisenhower in 1954.