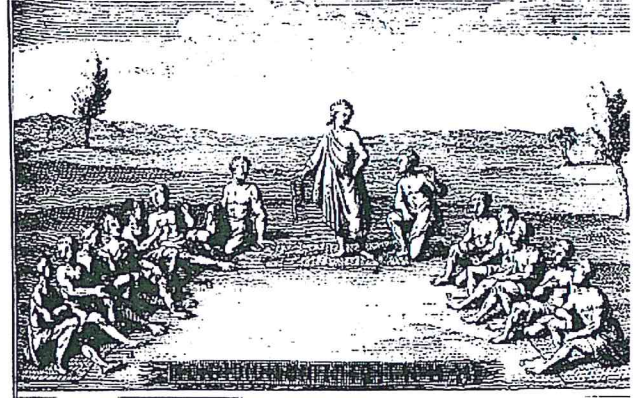


Name _____

IROQUOIS CONSTITUTION

About the Assignment: A constitution is a document that describes a government's laws. A group of Native Americans, the Iroquois, joined with four other tribes and wrote a constitution. This document is called the Great Law of Peace, and it explained their system of government. The Iroquois Constitution is on the left side. Facts and quotes from the U.S. Constitution are on the right side. The Iroquois created their constitution before 1535; the U.S. Constitution was written in 1788.



Directions: Read the attached document and use that information to answer the following questions.

Questions:

1. What was the goal of the Iroquois joining together in a league? (Hint: Look in the Introduction.)
2. In the US, each state has representatives that vote to pass US laws. Is the Iroquois system similar or different, and why? (Hint: Look in the Sharing Powers and Legislative Sections.)
3. How do the Iroquois select their head leader?
4. Name two qualities of the leader of the Iroquois.
5. Under what conditions would the Iroquois impeach (get rid of) their leader?
6. What are three similarities between the US government and the Iroquois confederacy? (Hint: Look at what both governments have.)

Textbook on the Iroquois

Read pages 38-39 and 149-150 in your textbook and answer the questions below.

1. What does your textbook say about the Iroquois Confederacy?
2. According to the textbook what documents, organizations, and people influenced the US Constitution?
3. Does the textbook show bias by leaving out the possible influence of the Iroquois Constitution on the US Constitution?

IROQUOIS AND US CONSTITUTIONS (class set)

INTRODUCTION

IROQUOIS

US

<p>Great Law of Peace Iroquois Confederacy (1500s)</p> <p>I am, [the Peacemaker with]... the League of Five Nations, plant the Tree of Peace. Roots have spread out... their nature is Peace and Strength. We place at the top of the Tree of Peace an eagle... If he sees in the distance any danger threatening, he will at once warn the people of the League. If any man or any nation outside the Five Nations shall obey the laws of the Great Peace, they may... be welcomed to take shelter...</p>	<p>U.S. Constitution Preamble (1787)</p> <p>We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union (country), establish justice, insure domestic tranquility (peace), provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.</p>
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SHARING POWER

IROQUOIS

US

<p>Grand Council Powers Vested in the Elder and Younger Brothers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First the question (law) shall be passed upon by the Mohawk and Seneca [two groups], then it shall be discussed and passed by the Oneida and Cayuga [another two groups].	<p>Each state gets representatives in the national government. States vote on their representatives.</p>
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SELECTING REPRESENTATIVES

IROQUOIS

US

<p>Wampum 17. Selection of Chief Statesmen</p> <p>1. The right of bestowing (naming) the title [of Chief Statesman] shall be hereditary (passed down) in the family... the women nominate the chiefs who hold office as long as the women judge him to be fulfilling his responsibility.</p>	<p>Each state will have representatives in the Congress.</p>
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QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES

IROQUOIS

US

<p>Qualifications of Chief Statesmen</p> <p>Wampum 27. All [Chief Statesmen] of the Five Nations Confederacy must be honest in all things...</p> <p>Wampum 53... they shall select one who is trustworthy, or good character, of honest disposition, one who manages his own affairs, supports his own family, if any, and who has proven a faithful man to his Nation.</p>	<p>Representatives must be twenty-five years old and a citizen of the United States for at least seven years. Representatives must live in the state that they represent.</p>
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SPEAKERS

IROQUOIS

US

<p>Wampum 14. When the Council of the Five [Six] Nations [Chief Statesmen] convene, they shall appoint a speaker for the day.</p>	<p>The members of the House of Representatives will choose their Speaker.</p>
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IMPEACHMENT (getting rid of a leader)

IROQUOIS

US

<p>Wampum 19. If... a [Chief Statesman] has not in mind the welfare of the people or disobeys the rules of this Great Law, the men or the women of the Confederacy... shall come to the Council and [unseat] the erring [Chief Statesman].</p>	<p>Representatives will hold a trial if they want to impeach (end the term of) the president.</p>
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LEGISLATIVE

IROQUOIS

US

<p>The Iroquois have two groups that vote on laws, the Council of the Mohawk, and the Council of the Seneca. Each person in both groups must agree to pass a law.</p>	<p>People in the U.S. elect representatives to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The two groups are called the Congress. More than half of both groups must vote yes on a law.</p>
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