

1.0 Think Tribally: How Do We Run Our Community?

Activity

1.2 What's for Kids?

(20 minutes)

Objective

Students will investigate the types of services provided directly to children by the tribal government.

Get Ready

- Consult the telephone book's government pages to write down the names of programs in your town which provide services directly to children: Parks and Recreation, Museums, Libraries, etc. Post these on your board.
- Prepare a sheet of drawing paper and colored pencils and markers.

Picture what our town gives us!

- *Say, when we vote soon for new tribal council members, we are voting for people who plan and organize activities and services for children in our community.*
- Point out to the students that they are consumers of community services in many ways. Ask who has a tribal membership card or has joined a club, etc.
- Ask each student to choose a community service they likes to use and to draw a picture of themselves using that service.
- Tell the students to share their drawings with each other, round robin style.

Ask Questions

- ☆ *Did any two or three people choose the same service?*
- ☆ *How does the Tribal Council pay for the services?*
- ☆ *How does voting affect services for kids?*

More!

Invite a member of the Tribal Council to speak in your classroom about programs for children. Examples: social services, housing, law enforcement, ambulance services, Indian Health Services (IHS), sanitation services, Tribal Land Enterprises (TLE), and Tribal Enrollment.

2.0 Act Tribally: What Can We Do?

Activity

2.2 “If I Were Tribal Chair” or “If I Were Tribal Council member” Button (20 minutes)

Objective

Students will write a suggestion for their community on the “campaign button” and a reminder to vote for parents and guardians.

Get Ready

- Duplicate “If I Were Tribal Chair/Council member” Buttons.
- Gather colored pencils, marking pens, etc. for decorating the buttons.
- Plan this activity for the very end of the day so that students may wear the buttons as they leave to go home.

Make Buttons

- Say, *we have heard so much about the elections. Let’s pretend that each one of you is a candidate for Tribal Chair or Council member. You get to do one thing for our community. What will it be?* (Call on students.)
- Tell students to write their idea for the community on the button, and to follow it with the one word that’s most important this week: VOTE!
- Give students time to color and cut out the buttons, as well as to write their ideas. Make adhesive tape “hinges” to attach the buttons to their shirts.

Ask Questions

- ☆ *Who are the real candidates for Tribal Chair and/or Council member?*
- ☆ *How does voting help your ideas for our town to come true?*
- ☆ *Who will you remind to vote with your buttons?*

More!

Students can wear their buttons and form an “Inside Outside Circle” to read the others’ ideas. (It also makes good reading practice.)

Children form two concentric circles, and turn to face each other. After reading the partners’ buttons, one circle moves clockwise to the next person and the new pairs read each other’s buttons. Proceed until perhaps five pairs have shared.

If I Were Tribal Chairperson or Tribal Council Member

Button

