

A Cultural Change

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians of the Blackfeet Reservation

Geographical Area: Plains Region

Vocabulary: administration decisions contemporary
drastic supervision essentially
reorganization corporation superintendent
generation traditional conjunction
governmental body legally chartered
in-effect

Reading Motivators: How are tribal rights exercised?
How are leadership positions filled in the local community?
How are they filled beyond the local community?
What does being a born leader mean?

Discussion Topics: What is sound judgment?
Discuss “Manifest Destiny” and the Westward Expansion and its affect on Indian people (see A Historical Perspective, Reservation Period).
Discuss tribal or family leadership.
Discuss what is involved in political elections.

Follow-up Activities:

1. Have the class research local tribal government. Individual students could report to class on how someone gets elected. Have students identify who in their community holds each elected position.
2. Set up a tribal council in class to discuss issues and make decisions.
3. Have tribal representatives speak to the class.