# Are Indian Reservations Part of the US? A History Lesson for 4th Grade Children

Indian reservations are areas of land that are set aside for the exclusive use of Native Americans. They were first established in the 19th century as a way to protect Native American tribes from white settlers. Today, there are over 500 Indian reservations in the United States, and they are home to about 2.2 million Native Americans.



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by Baby Professor

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Language: English
File size: 4135 KB
Print length: 64 pages



#### **How Were Indian Reservations Established?**

The first Indian reservation was established in 1851, when the US government signed a treaty with the Sioux tribe. The treaty gave the Sioux tribe control over a large area of land in what is now South Dakota. In the years that followed, the US government signed similar treaties with other Native American tribes, and more and more reservations were established.

The establishment of Indian reservations was a controversial policy. Some people believed that it was the best way to protect Native Americans from

white settlers. Others argued that it was a way to isolate and control Native Americans.

#### Why Were Indian Reservations Created?

There were several reasons why the US government created Indian reservations. One reason was to protect Native Americans from white settlers. White settlers were often hostile to Native Americans, and they often took their land and resources. Reservations were seen as a way to create a safe haven for Native Americans.

Another reason for the creation of Indian reservations was to control Native Americans. The US government wanted to prevent Native Americans from raiding white settlements and from forming alliances with other tribes.

Reservations were seen as a way to keep Native Americans under control.

#### **How Have Indian Reservations Evolved Over Time?**

Indian reservations have evolved over time in response to changing circumstances. In the early days, reservations were often isolated and impoverished. However, in recent years, many reservations have made significant economic and social progress.

One of the most significant changes to Indian reservations has been the growth of gaming. Many reservations have opened casinos, which have generated significant revenue for tribes. This revenue has been used to fund a variety of programs, including education, healthcare, and housing.

Another significant change to Indian reservations has been the growth of tribal sovereignty. Tribes have been increasingly successful in asserting

their rights to self-governance. This has led to a number of changes, including the creation of tribal courts and the development of tribal laws.

#### What Is the Legal Status of Indian Reservations?

Indian reservations are considered to be "domestic dependent nations" by the US government. This means that they are not fully sovereign, but they have a certain degree of autonomy. Tribes have the right to govern themselves and to make their own laws. However, they are also subject to the laws of the United States.

The legal status of Indian reservations is complex and has been the subject of much debate. However, it is clear that reservations are a unique and important part of the American landscape.

#### What Challenges Do Indian Reservations Face Today?

Indian reservations face a number of challenges today, including poverty, unemployment, and crime. These challenges are often the result of historical factors, such as the loss of land and resources. However, tribes are also working to overcome these challenges and to build a better future for their people.

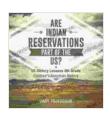
One of the most significant challenges facing Indian reservations is poverty. The poverty rate on reservations is more than twice the national average. This is due to a number of factors, including the lack of economic opportunities on reservations.

Another challenge facing Indian reservations is unemployment. The unemployment rate on reservations is also more than twice the national

average. This is due to a number of factors, including the lack of jobs on reservations.

Crime is also a major problem on Indian reservations. The crime rate on reservations is higher than the national average. This is due to a number of factors, including the poverty and unemployment that are widespread on reservations.

Indian reservations are a complex and important part of the American landscape. They have a rich history and a unique legal status. However, they also face a number of challenges today. By understanding the history of Indian reservations, we can better understand the challenges that they face and the ways that we can help them to overcome them.



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