

Creek Indian Confederacy Meeting  
What would “civilization” require us to change?  
Do we want to agree to this?

You are in a group representing one Creek Indian town preparing for a meeting of other towns in the Creek Confederacy. Mr. Benjamin Hawkins, the United States Government’s Indian Agent, will be coming to meet with your confederacy council very soon and you must prepare for his visit by studying the U.S. Government’s civilization plan and how it would impact your culture. Below is a chart listing some key components of Creek Indian culture. After studying it carefully, read the letter from President Washington outlining the civilization policy and write in the blank boxes how the policy would or would not require your culture to change.

After you have done this, prepare 5 questions for Mr. Hawkins as he will be visiting us in class tomorrow. We want to ask as many questions as possible before debating and deciding in our confederacy council meeting. The future of our people depends upon us making careful and wise choices in our negotiations with Mr. Hawkins.

Within your small group, each of you will portray one of the positions in village council structure, trying to decide if your village wants to go along with the ideas of President Washington:

- Mico: You run the daily meetings, receive visitors, and serve as town’s spokesman in diplomatic matters. You control the distribution of food from the public granary to those in need, visitors, etc. You are usually chosen by the council because you were judged to be a competent leader and your mother was a sister to the former Mico. You have no power to enforce your rulings. You merely speak for the council after consensus has been obtained and your main power is through persuasion and reputation.
- Second Man: You carry the orders from the chief to the people. Oversee construction of public buildings and the work in the village fields.
- Beloved Man: You were given this title by the council because you were seen to be a man of great wisdom and experience.
- Great Warrior: You earned your position due to your skill in battle. You were selected by the mico and council from among the warriors.
- Beloved Woman: You are sometimes allowed to speak in council and often send and receive messages from other women in other tribes. Often you influence the men’s decision through sharing your opinion to your husband, son, brother, or father. You often encourage or discourage warriors to start war or seek peace.