

## Vocabulary KEY for *On Sovereignty* Article

Vocabulary Term	What do you think this term means?
1. Tribal Sovereignty	<i>Answers will vary, and because these are words students likely have never heard before, boxes might be left blank. Encourage students to guess, based on the materials presented in class. Please do not substitute simpler terms (such as "self-rule" or "promise") for these vocabulary words. The goal is to get students comfortable with these terms so that they will recognize and recall them throughout their course of study in years to come.</i>
2. Time Immemorial	
3. Tribal Lifeways	
4. Covenant with the Creator	
5. Homelands	

1. Tribal Sovereignty—**the ability of tribes to govern themselves**, which, of course, predates non-Indian settlement. After the founding of the United States, however, treaties limited tribal sovereignty to self-governance within federal law and with the US government’s responsibility to protect the treaty rights of tribes and tribal people. This is known as “trust responsibility.” **The more complex and nuanced cultural definition encompasses, but is not limited to, the rights given to tribes by the Creator to exist and thrive as a people, to protect a way of life that promotes the role of tribal people as stewards of this Earth, as protectors of its resources and creatures.**

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2. Time Immemorial—**longer than humans have been able to record time and historical eras, longer than what human memory allows.**

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3. Tribal Lifeways—**the traditional ways in which tribal people have lived since time immemorial**, including religion, culture, recreation, economy, and all that encompasses a tribal society. Lifeways differ from tribe to tribe.

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4. Covenant with the Creator—**the promise to care for the Earth for future generations.** Though similar to the Judeo-Christian belief that humans have a sacred responsibility to the creator of all things, the tribal Covenant, is markedly different, in that the Creator never commanded tribal people to “subdue” the Earth, nor to claim “dominion,” as stated in Genesis 1:28. Tribal belief holds that humans must strive to exist *with* the Earth, not on it. It requires a belief that humans are no greater than the smallest creatures that dwell alongside them.

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5. Homelands—**tribal regions that predate Indian reservations** with naturally occurring boundaries. Like most cultures, tribes did not move from their homelands and had thousands of years of family and cultural history associated with the land on which they resided.

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