Federal and State Laws with Positive Impacts and Supports Affecting the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribe and members and other Oregon Tribes

1. **Federal Law - Indian Citizenship Act/Snyder Act (1924):**
   This Act granted U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States. Before this law, Native Americans were not considered U.S. citizens and could not fully participate in the political process. The law gave Native Americans the right to vote in federal elections, although many states did not fully recognize that right until much later. The Act was supported in part because many Native American veterans had served in World War I but were unable to access some veterans' benefits because they were not recognized as U.S. citizens.

2. **Federal Law - Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) (1934):**
   This landmark law was designed to reverse earlier assimilation policies that pressured Native Americans to give up their cultures, governments, and traditional ways of life. It ended the allotment of Tribal lands, helping protect Tribal land ownership and communities. The Act encouraged Tribal self-governance and economic development, allowing Tribes greater control over their own affairs and futures.

3. **State Law - Oregon's Ban on Interracial Marriage Repeal (1951):**
   n 1951, Oregon repealed its law banning interracial marriage, allowing people of different races to legally marry. This was an important step toward equal rights in Oregon. In 1967, the United States Supreme Court ruled that interracial marriage must be legal in every state, extending those protections across the country.

4. **Federal Law - Indian Civil Rights Act (Indian Bill of Rights (1968):**
   This law extended many of the basic protections found in the U.S. Bill of Rights to Native Americans under Tribal governments. It helped protect the voting and civil rights of Tribal members while recognizing the authority of Tribal governments to govern their own communities.

5. **Federal Law - Indian Education Act (1972):**
   This Act strengthened Indian Education by providing funding for special programs, culturally relevant educational materials, and training for educators and counselors. The law was passed in response to concerns raised in the 1969 Kennedy Report, which documented how boarding schools and many public schools had failed to meet the needs of Native American students. The Act helped support educational approaches that respect Native cultures, languages, and communities.

6. **Federal Law - Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (1975):**
   This Act recognized the right of Indian Tribes to self-determination and self-governance. It allowed Tribes to take greater control over programs and services that affect their communities, rather than having those programs managed solely by the federal government. The law strengthened Tribal authority to manage their own affairs, determine membership, and make laws governing Tribal members and lands.

7. **Federal Law - Indian Child Welfare Act (1978):**
   This law addressed the widespread removal of Native American children from their families, communities, and Tribes. It requires that Tribes be notified and involved when Native children are removed from their homes or considered for placement. The Act also established placement preferences that prioritize immediate and extended family members, followed by other members of the child's Tribal community, helping Native children maintain important cultural and family connections.

8. **Federal Law - American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978):**
   This Act recognized and protected the rights of Native Americans to practice their traditional religions freely. It sought to safeguard access to sacred sites, the use of sacred objects, and the ability to participate in ceremonies and traditional religious practices without government interference.

9. **Federal Law - Archaeological Resources Protection Act (1979):**
   This law protects archaeological and cultural resources located on federal lands, including Native American graves and other important cultural sites. It makes it illegal to excavate, damage, remove, or sell these resources without proper authorization, helping preserve important pieces of Tribal history and heritage.

10. **Federal Law - Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Restoration Act (1984):**
    This law restored federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians after years of federal termination policies that ended the Tribe's government-to-government relationship with the United States. During the Termination Era of the 1950s, the federal government ended recognition of many Tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. As a result, Tribal members lost access to federal programs and services, and the Tribe could no longer function as a federally recognized Tribal government.
    For nearly 30 years, Tribal leaders, members, and supporters worked to restore the Tribe's federal status. Their efforts led to the passage of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Restoration Act in 1984. The law reestablished the government-to-government relationship between the Tribe and the United States and restored access to federal programs, services, and benefits. Restoration also reaffirmed the Tribe's right to govern itself, preserve its culture, and protect its future for coming generations. This achievement reflects decades of determination, leadership, and advocacy by CTCLUSI Tribal members.

11. **Federal Law - Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (1990):**
    This Act protects Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and items of cultural importance from desecration, theft, and improper possession. It also establishes a process for museums, federal agencies, and other institutions to return these items to lineal descendants and Tribal Nations, helping restore cultural heritage and honor Native ancestors.

12. **Federal Law - Native American Languages Act (1990):**
    This law affirms the rights of Native Americans to use, practice, preserve, and develop their own languages. It recognizes that Native languages are an important part of Tribal identity, culture, and history, and it supports efforts to revitalize and pass these languages on to future generations.

Student Writing Checklist

Name: _____

Before I Write:

- ☐ I chose at least two laws from the timeline.
- ☐ I record notes and evidence from the laws.
- ☐ I identify a challenge Indigenous People faced.
- ☐ I identify how Indigenous People, Tribal leaders, or Tribal communities responded.

My Reflection Includes:

- ☐ An opening sentence that introduces my topic.
- ☐ An explanation of one challenge Native people experienced.
- ☐ Evidence from one law that helps explain the challenge.
- ☐ Evidence from a second law that shows how Native people responded or worked toward change.
- ☐ A statement about why history is important today.

Check My Writing:

- ☐ I used complete sentences.
- ☐ I used capital letters and punctuation correctly.
- ☐ I checked my spelling.
- ☐ I reread my work to make sure it makes sense.

Reflection and Thinking:

- ☐ I explained my own thinking.
- ☐ I explained what these laws
- ☐ I showed how the laws affected Native People and Tribal communities.
- ☐ I explained what these laws teach me about resilience, advocacy, self-governance, or protecting rights.

Federal and State Law Reflection Worksheet

Name: _____

Directions: Use the timeline to find examples of how Native people historically responded to challenges. Include evidence from at least two laws in your reflection.

Notes and Evidence:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Reflection:

_____

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Sentence Starters

- I learned that...
- One challenge Native people faced was...
- Native people responded by...
- For example...
- Another example is...
- These examples show...
- This history is important because...

Helpful Words might include * culture * language * family * rights * sovereignty * self-governance * advocacy * traditions * resilience * recognition

FEDERAL AND STATE LAW

TIMELINE

1600's

Archeological Study/Grave Robbing of Native American Sites

1620

First recorded grave digging: Dec. 1620, Pilgrims discovered a “grave-like place, only longer & bigger” & began grave digging. Tools, jewelry & bones were found. Archeologists & people studying Indigenouse People are allowed to dig up village sites & graves with a permit. Digging graves for souvenirs, artifacts & scientific study was encouraged by the US government, educational institutions & museums. Historically there has been huge economic activity in selling Native American artifacts & bones.

1800's

bones and there were no laws to protect Native American village or grave sites.

Oregon Indian Removal

1856

Between 1848 and 1855 the US Government entered into several treaties with Oregon Tribes. The Treaties called for Tribes to leave their lands and move to reservations. The Removal was a forced march that began in December 1856 and was done by Army troops. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw people were marched to the Yachats Reserve.

Oregon’s Ban on Interracial Marriage

1862

Oregon passed state laws (1862 & 1866) which made it illegal for persons of different races to marry. Couples of different races who did marry faced criminal sanctions and the marriage was considered invalid (not legal).

Code of Indian Offenses

1883

This law was a series of “rules” implemented without specific Congressional authorization. The rules made many traditional religious and cultural practices criminal. Indigenous People could be jailed for practicing their religion, speaking their language, holding ceremony and dances, ritual gift-giving (give-aways associated with marriage/birth/death) and practicing traditional medicine.

The Dawes Act (General Allotment Act

1887

The Dawes act was specifically designed to destroy the reservation land bases of Tribes by breaking the larger reservation up into “allotments” that were given to Tribal members for either farming or ranching [both of these practices were quite foreign to Tribal lifeways]. Any land not allotted was declared “excess” and given to non-Indian ranchers and homesteaders.

The Compulsory Indian Education Act

1887

This Act provided money for the development of more Indian Boarding Shools across the US. This Act was coupled with the Compulsory Attenfance Act, which allowed for the forcible removal of Native children from their homes and familyies.d reservations.

Compulsory Attendance Act

1891

Enabled Federal Officers/Officials to take, by force, Native American children to boarding schools away from their families, homes and reservations. Often, they were taken hundreds or thousands of miles away.

1900's

Indian Citizenship Act/Synder Act

1924

This Act granted citizenship to all Native American persons born in the United States. Prior to this law, Native Americans were not considered U.S. citizens and were denied political participation. The law allowed Native Americans the right to vote in federal elections (but many states did not grant the right to vote in State elections until the mid-1960’s). This law was largely in response to aid the vast number of Native American veterans who had served in World War I, but could not access veteran’s benefits due to not being citizens of the United States.

Indian Reorganization Act (IRA)

1934

This Act was a landmark piece of legislation designed to reverse the assimilation policies that had been in place for decades. It also halted the allotment of Indian lands, thus aiming to improve the lives of Native Americans by protecting their land. Political self-sufficiency was enacted to encourage tribal self-governance, and promote economic development.

Oregon’s Ban on Interracial Marriage Repeal

1951

In 1951 Oregon repealed its Interracial Marriage law, allowing people of different races to be legally married. The 1967 the United States Supreme Court handed down a law allowing interracial marriage in every state in the U.S.

P.L. 280

1953

Oregon was one of 6 states impacted by this Federal Law. PL 280 took jurisdiction away from Tribes to govern their own lands and implement their own laws and punishments. Instead of Tribal authority, the State now had exclusive criminal and concurrent civil jurisdiction over tribal lands. This law was one of the most impactful erosions of Tribal Sovereignty and self-government.

Western Oregon Termination Act (P.L. 588)

1954

This law ceased all recognition of the 61 Tribes and Bands of Western Oregon Indians. This means they were no longer considered Native American and the US government took all their lands and resources (timber) to sell, causing loss of land & homes, services, displacement and forced assimilation. Termination was complete devastation for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. They are the only Tribe in Oregon that did not receive any payment for the taking of the their 1.6 million acres of land and resources. The Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Snake Tribes were also terminated. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla and the Burns Paiute Tribes were not terminated.

FEDERAL AND STATE LAW

TIMELINE

1968

Indian Civil Rights Act (Indian Bill of Rights)

This law extended the basic rights of the U.S. Bill of Rights to Native Americans within the jurisdiction of the Tribe and prevented the Tribal Council from violating the voting and civil rights of the members.

1972

Indian Education Act

This act supports strengthening Indian Education by authorizing funding for special programs, culturally relevant materials, and training for educators & counselors. This law was passed in response to the 1969 Kennedy Report addressing the failure of boarding schools and public schools to support Native American students. In this law the forcible removal of children from families to boarding schools was halted.

1975

Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act

The Act recognized the right of Indian Tribes to self- determination and self-governance. This meant that Tribes were allowed to legally manage their own affairs, including programs and services, determining membership and making laws over their members and lands.

1978

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

ICWA halted the wholesale removal of Indian Children from their families and Tribes into non-Indian homes. The law mandates that Tribes be notified of the removal and placement of Indian children and be involved in any placement process. It also establishes a placement priority for Tribal children to be placed with immediate and extended family members first, then other community members and then non-Indians.

1978

American Indian Religious Freedom Act

This Act was passed to recognize the rights of Native Americans to practice their religions freely. This act aimed to protect their access to sacred sites, use of sacred objects, and freedom to worship through ceremonies and traditional rites.

1979

Archeological Resources Protection Act

This act protects archaeological resources on federal lands, including Native American graves, making it a felony to excavate, damage, or remove them without proper permits. Halts grave robbing & makes it a crime.

1984

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Restoration Act

This law re-recognized the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians with a restoration of federal status, federal supports and federal benefits. The Tribe fought valiantly for almost 30 years for this return to status.

1990

Native American Graves and Repatriation Act

This Act protects Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural signifiance from various forms of desecration and theft. It also provides a process for the return of these items to their lineal descendants or Indian Tribes.

1990

Native American Languages Act

The Native American Languages Act affirms the rights of Native Americans to use, practice and develop their own language.