

Answer Key--Indian Act of 1876 Worksheet

"The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change."

- John A Macdonald, 1887

A Status Indian is one whose band signed a land treaty. In this document these are the 'bands'. A Non-Status Indian is one whose band did not sign a land treaty. In this document these are the 'irregular bands'. Remember, today we don't use the word "Indian" to talk about Indigenous People.

1) Define the following terms:

- a. Annuities
- b. Illegitimate Child
- c. Cease
- d. Vested in
- e. Chattel
- f. Devolve
- g. Mortgages
- h. Void
- i. Revoke
- j. Trespasses
- k. Forfeit
- l. Arbitrator
- m. Trusteeship
- n. Liable
- o. Misdemeanor

- p. Annuities
- q. Incur
- r. Acquisition
- s. Enfranchisement

2) List the rights and responsibilities of the Superintendent General (modern Indian Agent)

- Basically the IA gets to do whatever he wants.
- Can take away the membership of an Indigenous person from a tribe
- Determines who counts as an “Indian”, and who does not.
- Determined that no Indigenous person can have more than one lot of land on reserve
- Determines the value of lot land, and who gets what lot of land on reserve.
- Determines who gets what licences for hunting, timber, or quarry stone
- Control the will/inheritance
- Authorizes non band members to be able to enter the reservation
- Can fine or use jail time as punishment for non-compliance
- Doesn't have to write the names of Indigenous people on writs and orders. May describe them instead.
- The Superintendent-General shall name the arbitrator on behalf of the Indians, and the amount awarded shall be paid to the Receiver-General for the use of the band of Indians for whose benefit the reserve is held.

3) List the rights taken away from the First Nations

- Can't really do anything without the permission of the IA including:
 - Claiming inheritance,
 - Giving a gift
 - Leaving the reservation,
 - growing/selling food on your own lot of land
 - Chopping wood on your own lot of land
 - Making anything out of wood like a crib, or a raft
- Can't purchase property

4) How could someone lose their Indian Status?

- Living in a foreign country for more than 5 years
- Being an illegitimate child
- Indigenous woman marrying a non-indigenous man
- Going to university

5) List any rights given to the First Nations

- They can sue for debts

6) What is the meaning of #38?

- Can be put in jail for a month for being drunk
 - Key word is “MAY”, which makes it entirely up to the IA as to whether or not he thinks someone is drunk.

7) See amendments #3 and 4 and discuss in your groups. Why would the Government deem it necessary to ban culture?

- Link students back to the concept of White Man’s Burden (suggest you show them Kipling’s Poem), and Eugenics.