

Constitution of the Iroquois Nations

Haudenosaunee / Iroquois Great Law of Peace

How does the Great Law turn a political system into a physical image people can remember?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	The Great Binding Law - Tree of Great Peace and council order

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	I am Dekanawidah and with the Five Nations' Confederate Lords I plant the Tree of Great Peace.
END	Adodarhoh and his cousin Lords are entrusted with the Keeping of the Council Fire.
PASSAGE ID	sec-iroquois-peace-01

SOURCE / ATTRIBUTION NOTE

Source edition: public-domain English text published as The Iroquois Constitution; the underlying Great Law is an Indigenous oral and political tradition, not reduced here to a single modern author.

THE MOVE

Analyze how extended metaphor carries institutional meaning.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The Tree of Great Peace is not decoration. Roots, branches, shade, and council fire give a political structure a memorable spatial form and connect authority to protection and relationship.

MARK

Underline parts of the tree image. Circle the political responsibility attached to each image. Box the point where metaphor becomes procedure.

NOTICE

- What does the tree allow listeners to picture?
- How do roots and shade express different political ideas?
- Why pair symbolic imagery with concrete council rules?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the Great Law turn a political system into a physical image people can remember? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The Great Law uses the Tree of Great Peace as a memory structure for government. Physical features become political relationships, making unity, reach, protection, and deliberation visible.

EVIDENCE

Use one tree image and the political function attached to it.

WATCH FOR

Do not treat the tree as a generic symbol of peace. Explain how specific parts organize governance.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 11 · LESSON 341

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WORK	Constitution of the Iroquois Nations
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	The Great Binding Law - Tree of Great Peace and council order
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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

I am Dekanawidah and with the Five Nations' Confederate Lords I plant the Tree of Great Peace.

END

Adodarhoh and his cousin Lords are entrusted with the Keeping of the Council Fire.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline parts of the tree image. Circle the political responsibility attached to each image. Box the point where metaphor becomes procedure.
2. NOTICE What does the tree allow listeners to picture? How do roots and shade express different political ideas? Why pair symbolic imagery with concrete council rules?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does the Great Law turn a political system into a physical image people can remember?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.