Student Name: _____

Myth or Fact?

Directions: Read each statement. Write M if you think it is a myth or F if you think it is a fact.

1. Most Native Americans live on reservations. _____

2. The United States federally recognizes 575 tribal nations, and each one has its own government. _____

3. In 1924, every Native person in the United States got the right to vote. _____

4. The Native population in the United States is shrinking. _____

5. Native Americans don't pay taxes. _____

6. Each tribal nation decides who its own citizens are. _____

7. Every tribe runs a casino. _____

8. More than 70 Native languages are still spoken in American homes today. _____

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Myth or Fact? Answer Key

TEACHER PAGE

1. Most Native Americans live on reservations.

Myth. Most Native people live off reservations, many of them in cities. About 13 percent of people who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native live on reservations or trust land.

2. The United States federally recognizes 575 tribal nations, and each one has its own government.

Fact. Each federally recognized nation governs itself and works with the U.S. government nation to nation. The number grew from 574 to 575 in December 2025, when the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina was recognized.

3. In 1924, every Native person in the United States got the right to vote.

Myth. A 1924 law made all Native people born in the U.S. citizens. But states controlled voting, and some kept Native people from voting into the late 1950s.

4. The Native population in the United States is shrinking.

Myth. The 2020 Census counted 9.7 million people who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, alone or with another race. That is far more than in 2010, partly because of changes to how the Census asks about race.

5. Native Americans don't pay taxes.

Myth. Native Americans pay federal income tax like everyone else. A few narrow exceptions exist, such as state income tax on money a tribal citizen earns on their own nation's reservation.

6. Each tribal nation decides who its own citizens are.

Fact. Every nation sets its own citizenship rules. Some trace citizenship through family lines, some use a historical membership list, and some set other requirements.

7. Every tribe runs a casino.

Myth. About 4 in 10 federally recognized tribes run gaming operations. Casino income is also very uneven: a small number of large casinos earn most of the money, while most tribal casinos are small.

8. More than 70 Native languages are still spoken in American homes today.

Fact. The Census Bureau tracks more than 70 Native North American languages spoken at home. Navajo has the most speakers, about 167,000.

Statements 1, 5, and 7 address myths also covered in IllumiNative's "Be A Myth Buster" fact sheet: https://illuminative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Be_A_Myth_Buster.pdf

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