

# The Big Five

By the time Washington State students leave middle school, they will understand:

- \* that according to the US Constitution, treaties are “the supreme law of the land”; consequently treaty rights supersede most state laws;
- \* that tribal sovereignty has cultural, political, and economic bases;
- \* that tribes are subject to federal law and taxes, as well as some state regulations;
- \* that tribal sovereignty is ever-evolving and therefore levels of sovereignty and status vary from tribe to tribe; and
- \* that there were and are frequent and continued threats to tribal sovereignty that are mostly addressed through the courts.