Boarding Schools in the Pacific Northwest

OSPI
Office of Native Education
Photos Courtesy of University of Washington Digital Archives
assimilate (verb)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
genocide (noun)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
indoctrinate (verb)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
identity (noun)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
eradicate (verb)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
propaganda (noun)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
Indian Adoption Program (proper noun)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
extended family (noun)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
VOCABULARY

Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977 (ICWA) (proper noun)

Definition: a.

Examples: People of the

Synonyms:
How the United States Stole Thousands of Native American Children

While Studying the Photos, think/discuss...

- What photos appear to be “staged”? Why do you think so? What might be a motive for staging student photos?

- Look at the children’s faces. What emotions might they reveal?

- Notice the youth of some children. What would be the motive for taking children at these ages?

- What do you believe the long term impact of years away from your home might be?

- What would you do if you were forced to go to boarding school?
“Engineer Boys”-Tulalip Indian School, 1912
Industrial Boarding School
Puyallup, 1885
Kitchen Girls - Tulalip Boarding School, 1912
Yakama Indian Boarding House Ruins
Fort Simcoe, 1893
Boys working the fields at Tulalip Indian Boarding School—1912

Question: How old do the boys look?

Child labor was not uncommon in the early twentieth century. However, most Indian boarding school children were unpaid and provided free labor and profit for local businesses as well as the boarding schools themselves.
Chehalis Schoolhouse, Chehalis Reservation, 1905
Band, Tulalip Indian School, 1912
Chemawa Engraving, Boys Activities, 1887
Girls Activities-Chemawa Engraving, 1887
Generational Trauma

• Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart describes historical trauma as “...the cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over one’s lifetime and from generation to generation following loss of lives, land and vital aspects of culture.” The American Indian Holocaust: Healing historical unresolved grief.

• https://boardingschoolhealing.org/education/impact-of-historical-trauma/