

THE BOARDING SCHOOL & CUSHMAN PROJECT
STORIES FROM STUDENTS, PATIENTS & STAFF:
ST. GEORGE'S INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL • CUSHMAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL •
CUSHMAN INDIAN HOSPITAL & SANATORIUM

This section shares personal stories from students, patients and staff members who physically attended boarding schools or were patients at the Indian hospital on the Puyallup Tribal Reservation. Please reflect on the information presented in “Stories from Students, Patients & Staff: St. George’s Indian Boarding School, Cushman Indian Boarding School and Cushman Indian Hospital & Sanatorium” and answer the following questions.

QUESTIONS FROM THE VIDEO & PERSONAL REFLECTION

ST. GEORGE’S INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL

1. If we pause and listen to the treatment one student from St. George’s Indian Boarding School described, how would you classify the behavior of the staff?
2. If this happened in schools now, what would happen to the staff?
3. Could you imagine your child enduring this type of abuse on a daily basis?
4. Does this type of behavior reflect the Catholic/Christian teachings?

CUSHMAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL

1. How did the strict regimen of Cushman Boarding School effect the children who attended?
2. If you were a child who attended Cushman School and didn’t receive any correspondence from your family, what would you think?
3. Why do you think the staff didn’t pass on the letters and packages sent from the children’s parents?

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1. What happened to the children as soon as they arrived to Cushman Indian Hospital?
2. Why might this have been traumatic for the children?
3. If there were “wards” for children that weren’t sick and “wards” for children that were sick or in need of medical emergency, what would be the purpose of housing children that weren’t sick in hospital?
4. What would be the purpose of a general round up to remove children from their homes if they were not sick?
5. From one staff member’s account, what type of treatments were performed on patients at Cushman Indian Hospital?
6. Who were most of the nurses working at Cushman Indian Hospital?
7. What did the children do during Occupational Therapy?
8. A child of one of the doctors recalled his father doing what all day long to Native children?
9. What would be the purpose of the doctor allowing his son to watch these operations being performed?
10. Who was bringing the children to the hospital and what were the children’s reactions?
11. What happened to children when they finally were reunited with their families?
12. What happened to many Yakama Indian children?
13. How were the Alaskan and Navajo children treated by staff?
14. What was happening to the Alaskan children once they were brought to Cushman Hospital?
15. How did patients create bonds and relationships with each other at the hospital?
16. Why do you think that former patients came back to work at the hospital as adults?
17. Why wouldn’t some patients ever go to a doctor or dentist after their stay at Cushman Hospital?
18. What were some patient’s feelings upon returning to the Cushman building as an adult?

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Questions by Amber Sterud Hayward

THE PUYALLUP TRIBAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM - 2020

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Now that you've answered questions from the video, it's time to begin looking into how these events impacted these people and personally envisioning what this did to these families lives.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. What new information did you learn?
2. How did you feel listening to the personal reflection exercise at the end of the video?
3. How did it make you feel envisioning your children being removed from your home?
4. What would an experience like this do to your community?
5. What are some of the ways you and your family would cope with these traumatic experience?
6. What would it do to the generations to come?
7. How did it feel hearing and seeing the firsthand accounts of students, staff and patients that were brought to the Puyallup Reservation?
8. Why do you think some Elders never shared their stories with their family members?
9. Why do you think the Elders who shared their stories wanted you to hear them?
10. Why do you think each Tribal name was spoken at the end of the video?