

THE BOARDING SCHOOL & CUSHMAN PROJECT
ST. GEORGE'S INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL • CUSHMAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL •
CUSHMAN INDIAN HOSPITAL & SANATORIUM

This section describes the timeline of events that transpired on the Puyallup Tribal Reservation during the assimilation of Indian children throughout the Boarding School era. Please reflect on the information presented in “St. George’s Indian Boarding School, Cushman Indian Boarding School and Cushman Indian Hospital & Sanatorium” and answer the following questions.

QUESTIONS FROM THE VIDEO

1. What did Judy Wright, Puyallup Tribal Historian write in 2001?
 - Answer: The Cushman Report
2. What was covered in this report?
 - Answer: She wrote about the timeline of Cushman: Cushman school, Veteran’s hospital, Tuberculosis hospital, Juvenile jail, and Puyallup Tribal Admin Building
3. In 1860, what opened on the Puyallup Reservation?
 - Answer: A one room day school for Indian children
4. According to the US Government, what made an Indian school successful?
 - Answer: The Indian children must be taken from the influences of their parents, separation of young from old
5. In the 1870’s, what were Indian children being forced to do at Cushman Boarding School?
 - Answers: Learning to read and write, perform work on school grounds, forced to be pitiful and eat poor food
6. Why was St. George’s Indian Boarding School opened on the Puyallup Reservation in 1888?
 - Answer: To teach Caucasian religion, education and domestic training to Indian children
7. In the 1890’s, what was the goal of the US Government’s assimilation of Indians across the United States?
 - Answer: To remove children from their families and place them in government run schools to tear the children from the traditions of their people and their family
8. Where were Indian children taken from to attend Cushman Indian Boarding School?
 - Answer: Children were taken from all over the Northwest and Alaska
9. Who was the school named after?
 - Answer: Francis W. Cushman, a White man who fought against the closure of the Puyallup Indian School in 1908

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10. Why was Cushman Indian School closed in 1920?
 - Answer: Due to lack of funds and there wasn't enough children
11. What happened to the school grounds after the closure?
 - Answer: The United States government turned the buildings into a Veterans Administration Hospital for soldiers of WWI
12. What year was the Veterans Hospital closed?
 - Answer: 1928
13. What happened on the grounds after the Veterans Hospital was closed?
 - Answer: In 1929, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) opened an Indian Hospital treating Northwest Indians who suffered from tuberculosis
14. How many Indians were brought by the BIA to Cushman Indian Hospital in its first year of opening?
 - Answer: More than 700
15. Who were the primary patient group in the hospital?
 - Answer: Mostly Indian children who were treated and educated
16. When did St. George's Indian Boarding School close?
 - Answer: 1936
17. What happened on the Cushman Indian Hospital grounds in 1943?
 - Answer: A new six-story hospital was made out of fireproof bricks, and was known as the largest Indian medical center in the United States
18. In 1955, how many Indian patients were being treated each day?
 - Answer: About 270 Indian patients
19. What happened to the Cushman Hospital in 1959?
 - Answer: The Department of Health, Education and Welfare announced to close down Cushman Indian Hospital

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PERSONAL REFLECTION

Now that you've answered questions from the video, it's time to be looking into the policies enforced by the United States government to assimilate Indian children into mainstream White America.

1. What new information did you learn?
2. What does it mean to "assimilate" a group of people?
3. Were you aware of the United States government's assimilation policies in the late 1800s in reference to Indian children?
4. Were you aware that there were Indian Boarding Schools located in Tacoma, WA on the Puyallup Reservation?
5. If you were unaware of the Indian Boarding Schools and government policies to assimilate Indian children, why do you think this information was not taught or was quickly brushed over in Washington State History?
6. How did you feel when seeing the quote, "In order to make an Indian school successful the children must be taken from the influence of their parents, separation of young from the old," written about the Boarding School on the Puyallup Reservation?
7. List some of the possible effects these families and children endured during this traumatic time of assimilation.
8. How might the following generation be effected by what happened to this group?
9. Were you aware of the Indian Hospital that resided on the Puyallup Reservation?
10. If you were aware of the Cushman Indian Hospital, did you know the history of the different uses over the years?
11. Did you notice that once the Indian Boarding Schools were closed on the Puyallup Reservation, a large group of Indians, mostly children, were then being brought in masses to a tuberculosis hospital and "educated"?