

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?
2. What was covered in this report?
3. In 1860, what opened on the Puyallup Reservation?
4. According to the US Government, what made an Indian school successful?
5. In the 1870’s, what were Indian children being forced to do at Cushman Boarding School?
6. Why was St. George’s Indian Boarding School opened on the Puyallup Reservation in 1888?
7. In the 1890’s, what was the goal of the US Government’s assimilation of Indians across the United States?
8. Where were Indian children taken from to attend Cushman Indian Boarding School?
9. Who was the school named after?
10. Why was Cushman Indian School closed in 1920?
11. What happened to the school grounds after the closure?
12. What year was the Veterans Hospital closed?
13. What happened on the grounds after the Veterans Hospital was closed?
14. How many Indians were brought by the BIA to Cushman Indian Hospital in its first year of opening?
15. Who were the primary patient group in the hospital?
16. When did St. George’s Indian Boarding School close?
17. What happened on the Cushman Indian Hospital grounds in 1943?
18. In 1955, how many Indian patients were being treated each day?
19. What happened to the Cushman Hospital in 1959?

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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"?