

**THE BOARDING SCHOOL & CUSHMAN PROJECT**  
**EUROPEAN CONTACT IN WASHINGTON STATE**

**This section describes the European contact with the First Peoples in the usual and accustomed areas of Lushootseed country. Please reflect on the information presented in “European Contact in Washington State” and answer the following questions.**

**QUESTIONS FROM THE VIDEO**

1. What Spanish explorer sailed the Pacific Ocean in 1774?
  - Answer: Juan Perez
2. What areas did he claim for Spain?
  - Answer: The Pacific Northwest – Oregon, Washington and British Columbia
3. How can one claim land that people have lived on for thousands of years?
  - Answer: You can't, it was stolen land
4. What disease did the Europeans introduce to the First People of this land?
  - Answer: smallpox
5. What did this disease do to the First People of this land?
  - Answer: They were ravaged by smallpox and it annihilated most of the people
6. Before European contact, how did the First People of this land live healthy lives?
  - Answer: They understood the land, they stayed healthy, they didn't ruin and destroy things, they followed the rules of the land and the earth took care of them
7. In 1790, what was signed by Spain that allowed others to come to the Pacific Northwest to exploit the land and take what was not theirs?
  - Answer: The Nootka Concession
8. What did George Vancouver do and see when he arrived in the Puget Sound in 1792?
  - Answer: Made the first map of Puget Sound. He saw the marks of smallpox on the faces of the First People
9. In 1818, what did the United States and Great Britain argue over?
  - Answer: They argued over who would exploit 'Oregon Country'
10. In 1819, Spain ceded stolen land to whom?
  - Answer: The United States
11. What two things did fur traders exploit upon their arrival in 1824?
  - Answer: They exploited the First People of this land to be able to exploit animal furs

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12. What animals did the fur traders decimate and annihilate on this land?
  - Answer: Mink, Fisher, Weasel, Marmot and Raccoons
13. In 1827, what happened at Fort Langley?
  - Answer: Europeans set up trade with the First People for food and clothes
14. What fort did Hudson Bay Company set up in the Puget Sound?
  - Answer: Fort Nisqually
15. What do the First People call the Europeans and why?
  - Answer: The First People call people with European descent “pastəd” because Caucasians came here from Boston, on the East Coast
16. Who were the first two men from the East Coast to build the first European homes in this area during 1854?
  - Answer: Michael T. Simmons – Caucasian, and George Washington Bush – Black
17. What happened on this land in 1848?
  - Answer: The United States Oregon Territory was created to include Oregon and Washington
18. When was Washington Territory established?
  - Answer: 1853
19. What happened on this land in 1854?
  - Answer: The Medicine Creek Treaty was created and the First People relinquished 2.5 million acres, as the Caucasian promised to provide the First People of this land reservations. This treaty promised the First People that they could hunt and fish in their usual accustomed areas
20. What happened on this land between 1855-1856?
  - Answer: The First People and Caucasians had a war
21. When did Washington Territory become the 42<sup>nd</sup> state of the United States?
  - Answer: 1889

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Now that you've answered questions from the video, it's time to begin looking into how Washington State History has traditionally been presented over the centuries.

**PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. What new information did you learn?
2. There are two sides of every story and different perspectives on each historical event. Why do you think only one perspective is shared in Washington State History?
3. Is it important to know both sides and perspectives of an event? Why or why not?
4. Should the truth be shared about historical events, even if it causes discomfort and pain to hear?
5. How did you feel hearing and reading Washington State History from the perspective of the First People of this land?
6. Share some differences that you noticed from this perspective versus the perspective that is typically shared in Washington State history.
7. How would you feel if a group holding power and dominance came into your neighborhood, town, city, or state and removed you and your family from your homes, took away your food and replaced it with unfamiliar food, altered your natural environment and exploited it for its rich natural resources? Please envision this – explain how you would feel.
8. If you were this minority group, how would you feel if this story was inaccurately represented for hundreds of years?