

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?
2. What areas did he claim for Spain?
3. How can one claim land that people have lived on for thousands of years?
4. What disease did the Europeans introduce to the First People of this land?
5. What did this disease do to the First People of this land?
6. Before European contact, how did the First People of this land live healthy lives?
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?
8. What did George Vancouver do and see when he arrived in the Puget Sound in 1792?
9. In 1818, what did the United States and Great Britain argue over?
10. In 1819, Spain ceded stolen land to whom?
11. What two things did fur traders exploit upon their arrival in 1824?
12. What animals did the fur traders decimate and annihilate on this land?
13. In 1827, what happened at Fort Langley?
14. What fort did Hudson Bay Company set up in the Puget Sound?
15. What do the First People call the Europeans and why?
16. Who were the first two men from the East Coast to build the first European homes in this area during 1854?
17. What happened on this land in 1848?
18. When was Washington Territory established?
19. What happened on this land in 1854?
20. What happened on this land between 1855-1856?
21. When did Washington Territory become the 42nd state of the United States?

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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?