

Teachers Notes

Boarding School Impacts

Outline of powerpoint

Hello Teachers! The notes below will explain each slide in depth for you to use in your classrooms. If you have any questions I will attach resources for you to look at!

Slide 2

- Gen. Richard Henry Pratt had a significant role in the devastation that impacted Native People. Head of the Carlisle Boarding School, this particular quote was taken from his famous speech on the philosophy of assimilation. This school was in operation for 39 years and took Native children from more than 140 tribes across the US. There were approximately 186 graves that were found with many more unaccounted for.

Slide 3

- This slide is about the goal of a boarding school and how Native culture was perceived by non-natives.

Slide 4

- The Civilization Act was established in 1819 to provide education for Native people and was partnered with the churches to establish the schools. The main reason for the boarding schools was to assimilate native people to "introduce the art of civilization." Native culture was seen as savagery, inferior, and uncivilized to the "mainstream" culture.
- There were approximately 357 schools in the US and 150 Schools in Canada that took over 211,000 kids in total from their families and homes. 61,000 kids from the US and 150,000 kids from Canada as young as 4 years old were brought to the boarding schools. To prevent the children from escaping and returning to their homelands, the majority of the students were taken to schools located hundreds of miles, even across the country to ensure they would assimilate.
- Any ties to Indigenous language, culture, traditions, even names were stripped from the children from the moment they stepped into the school. The schools banned any cultural and traditional practices often resulting in harsh punishments if the children were caught. This included physical, sexual, psychological, cultural, and spiritual abuse.
 - Hair was seen as an Indigenous practice since many of the children had long braided hair. All of them were forced to cut their hair, the boys with short hair and the girls with hair just below their shoulders. This was considered to be more "civilized" in the non-natives' perception.

Slide 5

- The tragic results of boarding schools began to resurface into mainstream society with a federal investigation that have identified 500 students deaths at the boarding schools, with many that have been unaccounted for. Thus resulting in the “Every Child Matters” initiative. This was created by the families of the children that were found to bring light to the events that happened and to educate people on the topic.
- There are about 15 boarding schools that were created in Washington State due to the Civilizations Act. 4 of those schools were and still are located near the Colville Reservation. Most of the CCT membership attended Colville Mission School, Fort Spokane, Paschal Sherman, and Tonasket.

Slide 6

- The younger generation has always been told and reminded to never cut or alter their hair in any matter because it is the connection to the ancestors. The longer the hair the stronger the connection to them and the surrounding environment.
- Traditionally there were only certain times for the people to cut their hair. When a close relative passes away the immediate family has to cut their hair at shoulder length; depending on the family it either signifies the start of a new beginning without that loved one or the end with the loved one so they may move on to the next world.
 - Another tradition that has been passed on is to always keep your hair. No matter the place, keeping your hair is always important so people may not grab it and wish bad things upon you. Old timers used to keep their hair and when they passed, the hair was placed behind the head, almost as a pillow.
- During different ceremonies, the hair was always braided in two and placed in front of the body instead of the back. This is to protect oneself from spirits latching on and to also place feathers, furs, and beadwork.
- When men braided their hair, it was parted into two and placed in front of the body. The hair also had to cover their ears.
- Women braided their hair in two and placed it in front of the body, but it never covered their ears.
 - Women were only allowed to braid their husbands or sons hair and never any other men.

Slide 7

- There are 8 examples of how Indigneous people took care of their hair in this part of the region. Each of the plants was used as shampoo and to treat other infections on the scalp. The slide also explains how to use each plant.