

## Lesson 1: Setting the Stage: Size and Scale of the Native American Boarding School Effort Worksheet for Activity 1

### Activity 1: Looking at Boarding School Sources

Utilize the sources listed to find attendance and population values that are relevant to Native American communities and boarding schools. Fill out a table like the one below with the values that you find in your research. A few values are filled in for you as examples:

| U.S. Census Count of Tribal Peoples |                      | Number of Tribal Children in Boarding Schools |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Census Year                         | Total                | School Year                                   | Total                |
| 1860                                | 339,421 <sup>2</sup> |   |                      |
| 1870                                | 313,712 <sup>2</sup> |   |                      |
| 1880                                | 306,543 <sup>2</sup> | 1880s   | 6200 <sup>6</sup>    |
| 1900                                | 230,306 <sup>4</sup> | 1900  | 20,000 <sup>3</sup>  |
| 1910                                | 262,355 <sup>4</sup> |   |                      |
| 1920                                | 261,000 <sup>5</sup> | 1925  | 60,889 <sup>3</sup>  |
| 1930                                | 362,000 <sup>5</sup> |   |                      |
| 1940                                | 366,000 <sup>5</sup> |   |                      |
| 1950                                | 377,000 <sup>5</sup> |   |                      |
| 1960                                | 552,000 <sup>5</sup> | 1960  | 100,000 <sup>3</sup> |

Note: Footnote citations in the table are from the numbered records below for this lesson.

#### Sources for Research:

1. Native Land Digital (2018). Retrieved from: <https://native-land.ca>.
2. National Archives (Summer, 2006). Native Americans in the Census, 1860-1890. Retrieved from: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/summer/indian-census.html>.
3. The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (2020, September). US Indian Boarding School History. Retrieved from: <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/education/us-indian-boarding-school-history/>.
4. U.S. History Through Census Data (January, 2016). History 90.1: Topics in Digital History. Retrieved from: <https://journeys.dartmouth.edu/censushistory/2016/01/25/native-americans-and-the-census/>.
5. Paisano, E. L. (1993). U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: We the First Americans (1993). Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/prod/cen1990/wepeople/we-5.pdf>.
6. Northern Plains Reservation Aid (2020) History and Culture: Boarding Schools. [http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=airc\\_hist\\_boardingschools](http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=airc_hist_boardingschools)
7. Family Search (2020). Indigenous Tribes of the United States. Retrieved from: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Indigenous\\_Tribes\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Indigenous_Tribes_of_the_United_States). [Note: an account is necessary for access to SOME records on this site.]
8. Family Search (2020). Indigenous Peoples of the U.S. School Records. Retrieved from: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Indigenous\\_Peoples\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_School\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Indigenous_Peoples_of_the_United_States_School_Records).
9. Censuses of American Indians (2020). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved from: [https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial\\_census\\_records/censuses\\_of\\_american\\_indians.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/censuses_of_american_indians.html).

## Lesson 1: Setting the Stage: Size and Scale of the Native American Boarding School Effort Worksheet for Activity 2

### Activity 2: Scaling to My Community

Utilize the values found in Activity 1 to calculate ratios and percentages that are relevant to Native American communities and boarding schools. Then, make equivalent calculations that are relevant to your community or school in order to contextualize the impact that Native American boarding schools have had and continue to have on Tribal communities today.

**Step 1:** Choose a decade and find the total number of Tribal peoples that are on record to be living in the U.S. during that time.

**Step 2:** For that same decade, how many Tribal children (in the U.S. or in a specific Tribe) were in attendance in Native American boarding schools?

**Step 3:** Calculate the percentage of people who attended boarding schools in that decade.

**Step 4:** Make this calculation for a few decades for the purpose of making comparisons.

**Step 5:** Think of the population of your school as equivalent to the population of Native Americans in the decade you chose. Ask the question: **If the students in our school were all Native American and lived in the decade we are looking up, how many of our schoolmates would probably be attending a boarding school instead of going to school with us?** Calculate the equivalent number of people who would have attended boarding school if you all lived during that particular decade. Try this by following the example calculation below:

**Example Calculation:**

| U.S. Census Count of Tribal Peoples |                      | Number of Tribal Children in Boarding Schools |                     |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Census Year                         | Total                | School Year                                   | Total               |
| 1900                                | 230,306 <sup>4</sup> | 1900  | 20,000 <sup>3</sup> |

Percent of children who attended boarding schools in 1900:  $(20,000/230,306) \times 100\% = 8.68\%$

If there are 350 students who attend my school, calculate the number of students who would attend a boarding school if my school was the equivalent of the population of Native Americans in 1910:

$$(x/350) \times 100\% = 8.68\% \quad x = 30.38$$

**Answer: About 30 students from my school would have to attend boarding school if we were living in 1910.**

**Fill out a table like the one below:**

| Number of Students in My School | Equivalent Percentages and Number of Students |             |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 350                             | 1880  |             |
|                                 | 1900  |             |
|                                 | 1910  | 30 students |
|                                 | 1920  |             |
|                                 | 1930  |             |



## Lesson 1: Setting the Stage: Size and Scale of the Native American Boarding School Effort Worksheet for Activity 3

### Activity 3: Boarding Schools in Depth

Explore a boarding school in detail and answer some questions about the school. Take the information you learned from Activity 1 and 2 and have a discussion with a small group of fellow students.

- Step 1:** Choose a school or a few schools from the **Boarding School Map** [Find a link to this Boarding School Map on the main Curriculum Unit page or document].
- Step 2:** Click on the link(s) that are available and read the materials that are available.
- Step 3:** If the links provide limited information, search for more information on the school.
- Step 4:** Answer the questions in Part 1 of the **Listening, Thinking, Talking** document for Lesson 1: Setting the Stage: Size and Scale of the Native American Boarding School Effort.
- Step 5:** Get together with a small group of students to take turns listening to and sharing your perspectives to each of the questions in Part 2 of the **Listening, Thinking, Talking** document.

### Listening, Thinking, Talking

#### For Lesson 1: Size and Scale of the American Indian Boarding School Effort

#### Part 1: Individual Thinking

- For the boarding school(s) you explored, what is the number of Tribal children who attended this/these schools? (Sometimes this information is not readily available.)
- What Tribes did children who attended these schools belong to? Look up the homelands for these Tribes and consider the distance that children traveled from their homes to the school.
- What do you notice about how the Native American population count and Tribal boarding school counts change from year to year?
- Do you think that these values are accurate? Why or why not?

#### Part 2: Group Listening & Discussing

- What did each of you notice about the population differences for Tribal people as the decades progress? What are some possible reasons for this?
- Do you think that the resources where you found these values are reliable?
- Are the counts of Native American people and boarding school students accurate? What could make them inaccurate?
- Why were boarding schools built for Native American communities at distant locations, instead of building schools for Native American children to attend where they lived with their families?