

Lesson 3

Oral Traditions: Lighting the Trail through Boarding School Stories

Worksheet for Activity

Activity: Reading, Listening, and Watching

This activity includes reading and/or listening to informational and personal stories that are told through writing, podcasts and online videos that will help to illuminate what boarding school life was like and what the impacts have been on Tribes through the generations. There are also stories that highlight how some people found ways to bring what was learned back into their Tribal communities and information about how Tribal culture is being integrated into the education of Tribal youth again in educational settings today. The **Boarding Schools Along the Trail Map** and **Companion Document** [see hyperlink download in the main curriculum unit] and the links below can be used to explore stories related to boarding schools in specific geographical areas, and to hear more stories across the country from a wide range of Tribal peoples.

Step 1: Explore at least three of the media sources listed below by **READING** a story, **LISTENING** to a story, and **WATCHING** a story. Sources for boarding school stories can also be found on the **Boarding Schools Along the Trail Map** and related **Companion Document** [links to these documents can be found in the main unit].

Step 2: Find the locations on the Boarding School Map where these stories took place. Research the Tribal homelands for the schoolchildren in the stories and locate it on the map.

Step 3: Complete the **Thinking, Listening, Talking** box that is provided below the Media Sources.

Media Sources:

Written Stories

- *Iowa and Sac & Fox Treaty Negotiated by Capt. William (of Lewis & Clark)*
 - <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/iowa-and-sac-fox-mission/11847>
- *The Carlisle Indian School Project: Honoring the Children, Giving Voice to the Legacy*
 - <https://carlisleindianschoolproject.com>
- *Piikuni Healing and Cleansing Ceremony*
 - http://www.cutbankpioneerpress.com/glacier_reporter/news/article_072b8562-9d64-11e7-a66f-5ffd10ec3963.html
- *Away from Home*
 - <https://heard.org/boardingschool/>

Audio Stories

- *American Indian Boarding Schools Haunt Many*, by Charla Bear, NPR News
 - <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=16516865>
- *Stewart Indian School Trail Podcasts*: <https://stewartindianschool.com/podcasts/>
 - Podcast #7: Buck Sampson talks about boxing and his American Indian history class.
- *A Long Way Home: A Crow Indian Boarding School Story*
 - <https://www.mtpr.org/post/long-way-home-crow-indian-boarding-school-story>
- *Department of Education Investigating Alleged Discrimination at Wolf Point School District*
 - <https://www.mtpr.org/post/department-education-investigating-alleged-discrimination-wolf-point-school-district>

Video Stories:

- *Montana Mosaic: Unintended Consequences of Indian Boarding Schools*
 - <https://montana.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/8754d77f-fb5c-4b47-bb27-eb847476bfae/montana-mosaic-unintended-consequences-of-indian-boarding-schools/#.X6oQGy2ZORs>

Video Stories (continued):

- *Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools*, PBS Utah
 - <https://www.pbsutah.org/whatson/pbs-utah-productions/unspeken-americas-native-american-boarding-schools>.
 - Part I: Origin of The Boarding Schools | Assimilation Versus Extermination
 - Part II: Reforms in the Civil Rights Era
 - [PLEASE NOTE: This news story briefly mentions sexual abuse. It does not go into detail, but Part I has an interview at 15:43 where the interviewee says, "I've learned that the worst thing was the sexual abuse and then the emotional abuse that accompanied it, in many of the schools." More information on sexual abuse can be found in boarding school materials including the following citations in the Bibliography for this unit: (Irwin & Roll, 1995), (Woodard, 2011), and (Flood, 2018).]
- *Lewis & Clark Trail – Tribal Legacy Project, Tent of Many Voices*
 - Joyce Silverthorne, Salish & Pend O'Reille on Boarding Schools: <https://www.lc-triballegacy.org/video.php?vid=499&query=school>
 - Traditional education before boarding schools, and how education has changed
 - Wilson Wewa, Northern Paiute: <https://www.lc-triballegacy.org/video.php?vid=830&query=boardin>
 - Story about his grandma in boarding school, and her successes from it.
 - Greta White Calf & Yvonne Fox, Arikara: <https://www.lc-triballegacy.org/video.php?vid=901&query=boardin>
 - Good that came from boarding schools: How many people came back to help their people with what they learned in boarding school and became the leaders of the Tribes.
 - D'Lisa Pinkham, Nez Perce: <https://www.lc-triballegacy.org/video.php?vid=415&query=school>
 - Teachings from pre-colonization and how modern education is putting culture back into teaching.
 - Lena Malnourie & Yvonne Fox: Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara: <https://www.lc-triballegacy.org/video.php?vid=897&query=school>
 - Cultural activities in modern-day schools
 - Marcella LaBeau: Lakota Sioux: <https://www.lc-triballegacy.org/video.php?vid=959&query=school>
 - Personal experiences in a boarding school, removal of culture, etc.
 - Henry Daychild, Chippewa Cree: <https://www.lc-triballegacy.org/video.php?vid=103&query=school>
 - Shows a video of a young boy on his way to school on a horse.

Thinking, Listening, Talking

For Lesson 3: Lighting the Trail through Boarding School Stories

Part 1: Individual Thinking

- On what school and Tribe are each of the stories focused?
- Whose perspective are the stories from?
- What kinds of things did the children learn in the school that they attended? Can you tell if the learning was different from what they learned at home?
- How did the school children have to change (physically and behaviorally) when they arrived at and attended the school?
- Were there any stories of resistance to these changes? What did resistance look like?

Part 2: Group Listening & Discussing

- What does it mean to take away someone's cultural identity?
- Did the people talk about their experiences in a positive or a negative light?
- What does resilience mean in relation to thinking about Native American boarding schools? What are some stories of resilience that you learned in these stories?