

American Indian Boarding Schools

An Exploration in Global Ethnic and Cultural Cleansing

Lesson 3: Life at the Boarding Schools

Brought to you by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe



Teacher Guide and Student Worksheets
A Supplementary Curriculum Guide written by

Ziibiwing Center
Of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways

A Guide for Thinking

These six lesson activities are intended to coordinate with the Ziibiwing Society's text, *The American Indian Boarding Schools*. If you do not already have this text, we highly recommend that you download a copy. It is available to you at no charge at the following link:

<http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing/planyourvisit/pdf/AIBSCurrGuide.pdf>

Ziibiwing Center Comparative Timeline

Teachers and students will also want to access the above timeline. It is a wonderful tool to comparatively look across American Indian, U.S. and world history at the same time. You will find this timeline at:

<http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing/planyourvisit/timeline/index.htm>

Building Background Knowledge

If you are new to the topic of American Indian Boarding Schools, the following link will provide you with a quick tutorial.

Humanities in a Minute Overview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=PTm479tr2jo&feature=endscreen>

*Produced by the Minnesota Humanities Center
<http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/>*

Essential Question:

Use this PowerPoint to guide you through a series of articles, videos and historical documents. After you have absorbed all of this information, you will participate in a class discussion to answer the question:

What was life like for students who attended the American Indian Boarding Schools?

Make sure you cite the references for your responses.



The Intent

The intent of the American Indian Boarding Schools was to force cultural assimilation. Let's read what Richard Pratt, originator of the Boarding School's social experiment, had to say about American Indians.

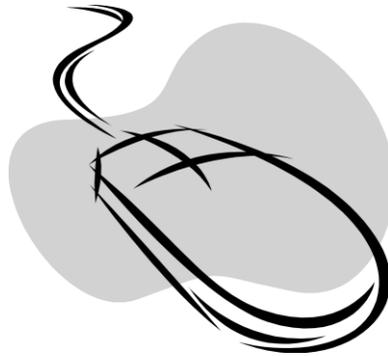


"It is this nature in our red brother that is better dead than alive, and when we agree with the oft-repeated sentiment that the only good Indian is a dead one, we mean this characteristic of the Indian. Carlisle's mission is to kill this Indian, as we build up the better man. We give the rising Indian something nobler and higher to think about and do, and he comes out a young man with the ambitions and aspirations of his white brother. We do not like to keep alive the stories of his past, hence deal more with his present and his future."

Carlisle Superintendent, Richard H. Pratt

“American Indian Boarding Schools Haunt Many”

This is an NPR article written on May 12, 2008.
It provides a first-person account of what
it was like to attend an AIBS.



Follow the link to read through it and don't forget
those notes!

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=16516865>

English Only!

Even before American Indian children had their hair cut and deloused in kerosene, they were stripped of their language. Not speaking English was a punishable crime.

Let's hear what leading linguist and anthropologist David Wade has to say about the importance of original languages.

English Only!

“Every language is an old-growth forest of the mind.”

Wade Davis – TED lecture

“Cultures at the far edge of the world”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL7vK0pOvKI>

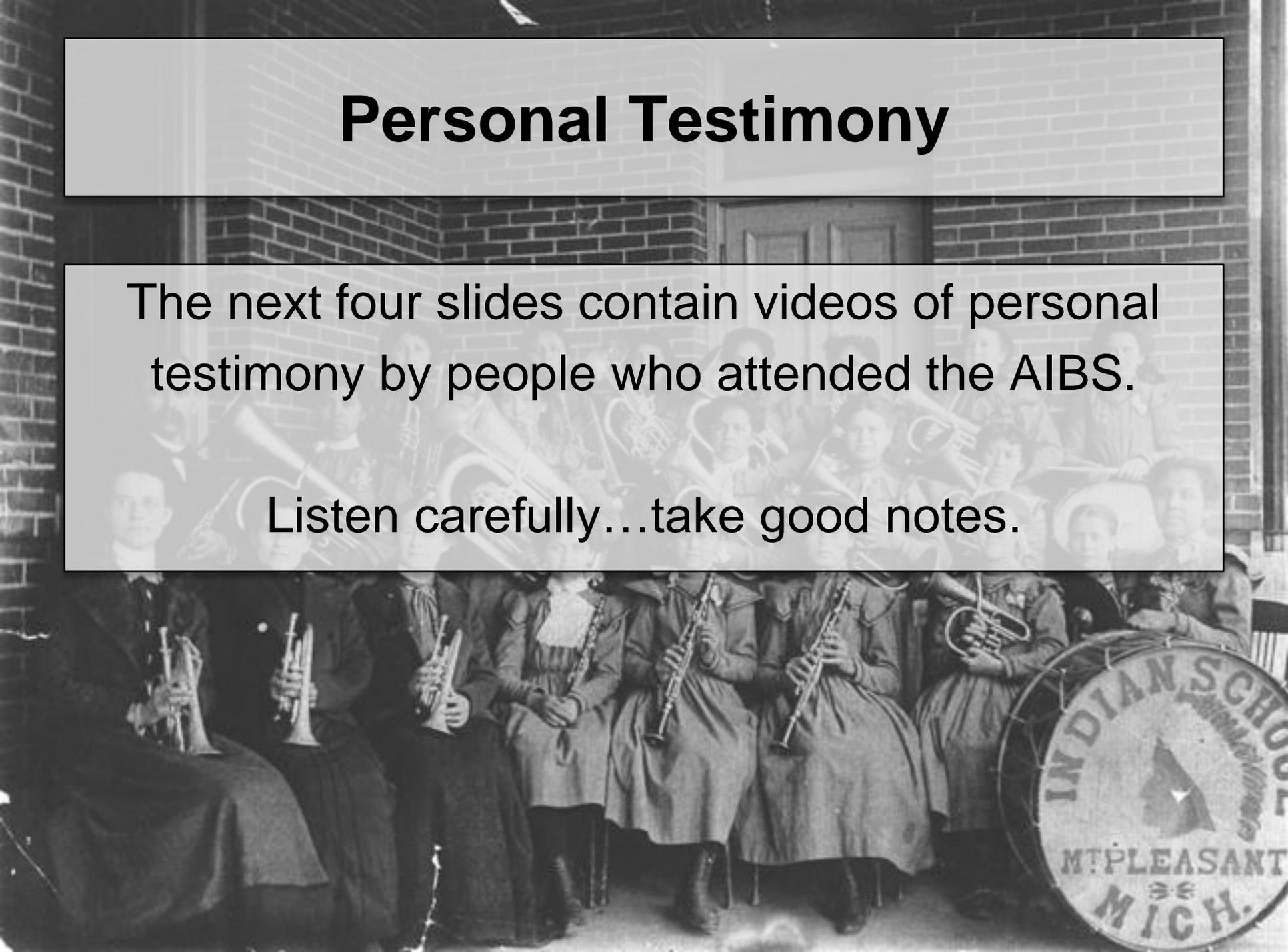
Interview of Wade Davis on his book, *The Wayfinders*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLfPuc6_2OI

Personal Testimony

The next four slides contain videos of personal testimony by people who attended the AIBS.

Listen carefully...take good notes.



Port Alberni Canadian Boarding School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXPYWbLFn9I>



Dennis Banks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJpfZOoIX6g&feature=relmfu>



Personal Interview: Joanne Tall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=p1tiQB8gt5g&NR=1>



Personal Interview: Unknown Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u3VOZ4n4aM>



The Meriam Report

The Meriam Report was a federally funded investigation of the conditions of the AIBS. It was the report responsible for closing the non-reservation boarding schools. It is a very large report. Please look in Chapter 1, page 3 of the report AND ONE OTHER PLACE to find evidence of what life at the AIBS was really like.

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=952>

Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe Healing Ceremony Excerpt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUneNRAnEfg>



Attitude of the Times

“Mrs. Ashman, a full-blooded Indian squaw, last year signed a three year agreement to have a ____year boy and a girl of 10 attend the Indian School. She visited them that week and as the twain were very homesick, the squaw with the proverbial cunning of her race, smuggled them out of the school and was homeward bound before the school authorities found her trail. Near Pinconning they were met by the sheriff from Bay City and the Mt. Pleasant school guard. The old squaw broke a big satchel over the guard’s head. and there was some tall scuffling, scratching and biting before the Indians were captured. Submitting to the superior force of the white race, the reds returned to the government school to serve out their term under the discipline which makes them yearn for the free air of the wigwam on Toboico Bay.”

January 3, 1902, Isabella County Enterprise, news article. The Indian School referred to is the Mt. Pleasant Industrial Board School. A copy of the original document is on the next slide and is included in the Student Worksheets.

1/3 1902 Isabella County Enterprise

to many Mt. Pleasant people, was married Dec. 23th to Miss Mary Gillette of Clear Lake, Wisconsin.

George Hogue of this city and Miss Ida Schalow of Reed City were married at the bride's home in that place Christmas day. They came to this city that evening and are located in a part of W. E. Preston's handsome new house.

Miss Emma Clark of this city and Robert G. Curtis of Manistee county were married at the home of the bride's parents in this city New Year's day by Rev. G. S. Northrup. Miss Clark has been teaching at East Lake, Manistee county for the past three years.

G. A. Richardson, postmaster at Strickland, received a telegram Tuesday announcing the death of his daughter, Nellie, wife of Leslie Hapner, at Beuna Vista, Colorado, where they went some months ago for her health. The body will be brought home for burial.

On Tuesday afternoon the marriage of

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sunday service at 10:30. Subject—"God." Wednesday evening meeting at 7. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

The classes of the Woman's Study Club that are scheduled for January 8th will meet January 10th, and Mrs. John Doughty's program day will be January 17th.

"Ring in the New" is Rev. Ribba's subject for a New Year's sermon next Sunday morning. In the evening he will deliver a lecture on "My Ramble in Jerusalem." All are cordially invited.

The L. O. T. M. gave the S. F. K. High a surprise at their meeting Wednesday night by going up to the lodge room with baskets of refreshments and cutting the exercises short. The balance of the evening was spent in dancing and fun.

Royal Arch Chapter No. 111 elected the following officers Monday evening: E. J. VanLieuven, H. P.; John Maxwell, K.; L. E. Royal, scribe; Robert Laughlin, chaplain; John J. Cowin,

ball was profusely decorated with dancing and the music was excellent. The Eureka Club is to be praised for the successful way in which it entertains.

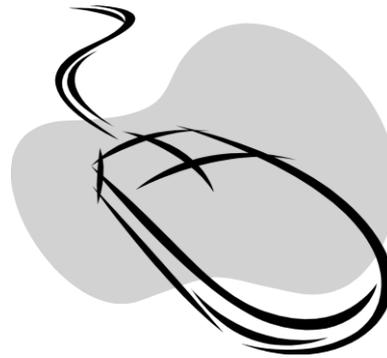
Mrs. Ashman, a full blooded Indian squaw, last year signed a three-years agreement to have her 15-year-old boy and a girl of 10 attend the Indian school. She visited them last week and, as the twins were very homesick for the squaw, with the proverbial cunning of her race, smuggled them out of the school and was homeward bound before the school authorities found her trail. Near Pineconning they were met by the sheriff from Bay City and the Mt. Pleasant school guard. The old squaw broke a big satchel over the guard's head and there was some tall scuffling, screeching and biting before the Indians were captured. Submitting to the superior force of the white race, the reds returned to the government school to serve out their term under the discipline which makes them yearn for the fres air of the wigwams on Tobolco bay.

"Don't let it be published" is the re-

Expanded Views of AIBS

Baseball and the American Indian Boarding School

<http://public.csusm.edu/NativeAmericansinBaseball/Federal%20Indian%20Boarding%20Schools%20.html>



So, What do you think?

**What was life like for students who attended
the American Indian Boarding Schools?**

Be specific. Cite Sources.

