

# Exploring the American Indian Boarding School Experience

**Subject:** Social Studies/History

**Grade Level:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond

## **Learning Objectives:**

### Area: Social Studies Inquiry Practices and Processes

- Standard SS.Inq1: Wisconsin students will construct meaningful questions that initiate an inquiry.
- Standard SS.Inq4: Wisconsin students will communicate and critique conclusions
- Standard SS.Inq5: Wisconsin students will be civically engaged.

### Content Area: Behavior Sciences (BH)

- Standard SS.BH1: Wisconsin students will examine individual cognition, perception, behavior, and identity (Psychology).
- Standard SS.BH2: Wisconsin students will investigate and interpret interactions between individuals and groups (Sociology).
- Standard SS.BH3: Wisconsin students will assess the role that human behavior and cultures play in the development of social endeavors (Anthropology).

### Content Area: Economics (Econ)

- Standard SS.Econ2: Wisconsin students will analyze how decisions are made and interactions occur among individuals, households, and firms/businesses (Microeconomics).
- Standard SS.Econ4: Wisconsin students will evaluate government decisions and their impact on individuals, businesses, markets, and resources (Role of Government).

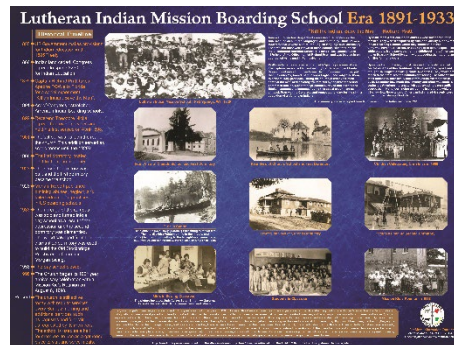
### Content Area: Geography (Geog)

- Standard SS.Geog2: Wisconsin students will analyze human movement and population patterns.
- Standard SS.Geog4: Wisconsin students will evaluate the relationship between identity and place.
- Standard SS.Geog5: Wisconsin students will evaluate the relationship between humans and the environment

**Resources/Materials:** <https://mohican.com/services/education-and-career-services/ecs-resources/ecs-indian-boarding-schools/>

Poster – Lutheran Indian Mission Boarding School Era 1891-1993. The poster summarizes in a larger context the historical American Indian Boarding School with a deep focus on the Lutheran Indian Mission experience. The poster is available for purchase at the Arvid E. Miller Historical

Library/Museum located at N8510 Moh He Con Nuck Road, Bowler, Wisconsin, 54416 or you can reach the Library/Museum by calling 715-793-4270.



### Activities:

The Exploring the American Indian Boarding School Experience Power Point Presentation will go through an activity, review a historical timeline and a documentary before doing a deep dive into the Education at the Lutheran Indian Mission in Red Springs, WI from 1901-1920.

### Procedures:

**YouTube:** Before hitting the play button on the YouTube video, be sure to point out where in the room the Kleenex will be just in case, they need one throughout the presentation. Inform attendees that the Mohican Flag song sung by Nanapowe Singers is the audio in the background and will be up for the first 44.58 seconds of the video.

**Power Point:** Before attendees enter room, open power point and slide one will play audio that is looped until you [CLICK]. After you click it will stop the audio and you can inform the attendees that the Mohican Flag song sung by Nanapowe Singers was the audio they heard. In addition, let the attendees know that the documentary and information within the presentation may evoke unexpected emotions and point out where in the room the Kleenex will be and that they are welcome to leave the room to practice self-care, if needed. Once you [CLICK] again it will start the Power Point which is automated and will transition from one slide to another without having to click.

*You will have **1 minute** to pause Power Point on slide 6 to reflect*

### *Pause and Reflect*

How do you think you would feel if this really happened to you, if you were?

- Forbidden to speak the language from Earth and would have to learn the language that the aliens spoke;
- Have to study the history and culture of the aliens; and
- Have to practice the same religious beliefs, and ways of the aliens along with eating, dressing, and grooming just like the aliens.

### After Activity Reflection

Have attendees brainstorm responses/reaction to this scenario. OPEN DISCUSSION

[CLICK] to resume Power Point Presentation

*You will have **1 minute** to pause Power Point on slide 9 to reflect*

### *Pause and Reflect*

Any thoughts or comments?

- What was life like in the boarding schools?
- What reactions did they have to this type of education?
- What were some of the motives behind the movement to educate Indians in this manner?

### After Video Reflection

Any thoughts or comments? Revisit the questions in slide 9 to engage audience if needed.

OPEN DISCUSSION

[CLICK] to resume Power Point Presentation

### **Assessment Evidence:**

Will gain the truth about the US Indian boarding school policy by recognizing how it has largely been written out of the history books.

Will gain understanding and knowledge that there were nearly 350 government-funded, church-run Indian Boarding schools across the US in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Will gain understanding and knowledge that Indian children were forcibly abducted by government agents, sent to schools hundreds of miles away, and beaten, starved, or otherwise abused when they spoke their native languages.

Will gain a deeper understanding through the group activity of what the Indian Boarding School experience was like.

Will gain the historical background/timeline on American Indian Boarding Schools.