FIVE OAKS MUSEUM

TEXT-BASED EDITION

THIS IS KALAPUYAN LAND

Family Separation

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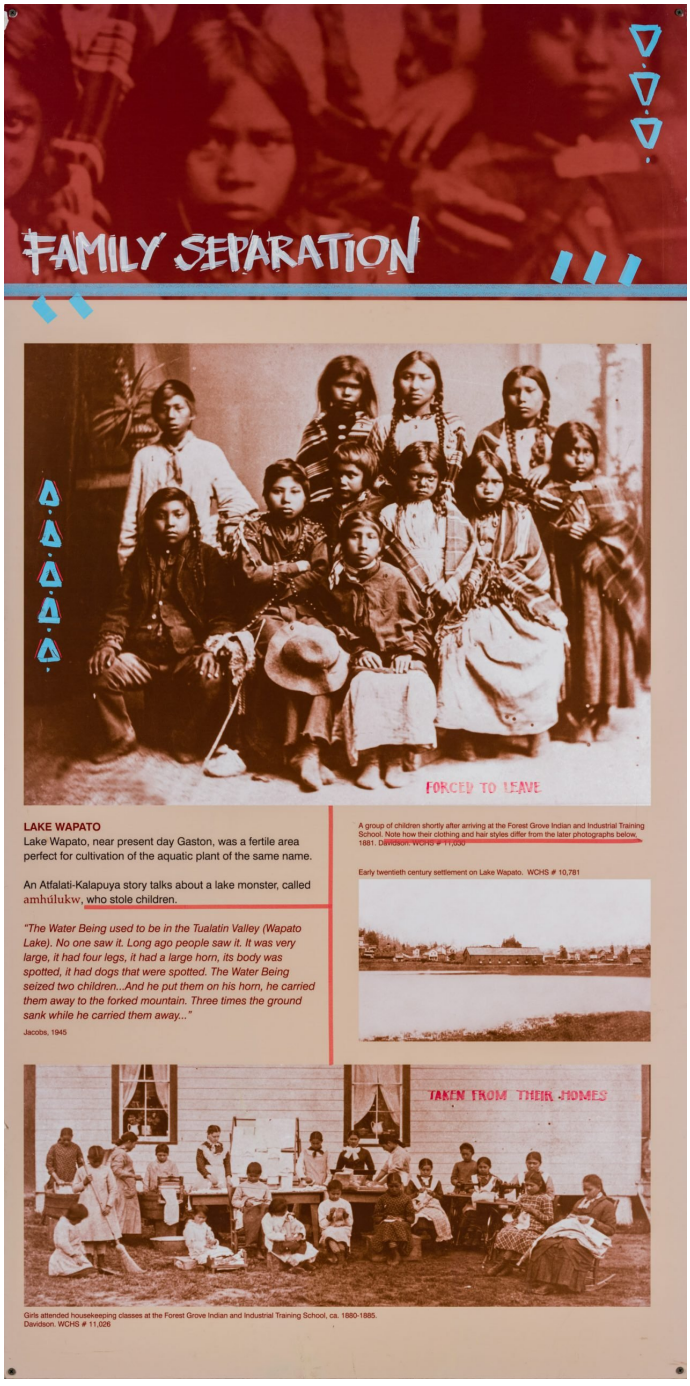
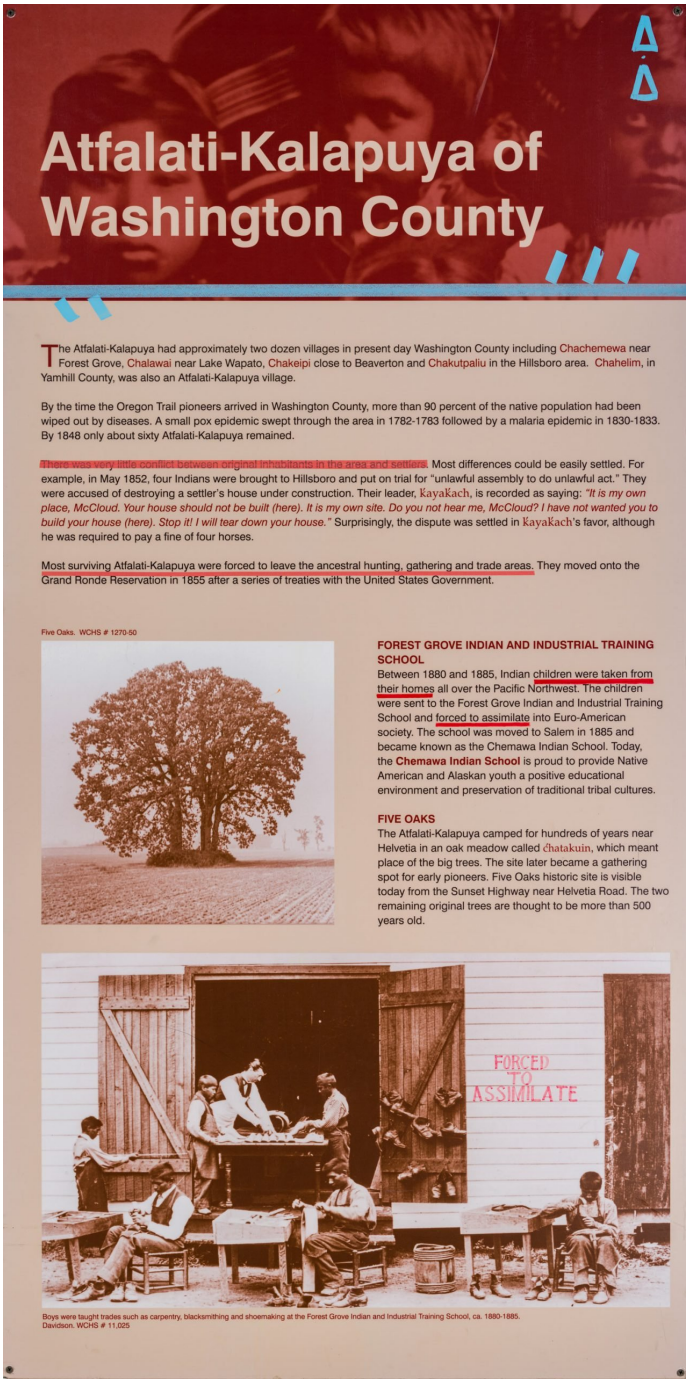
WHAT'S ON THE PANELS?





Steph added a title to the section about boarding schools. **Circle the title "Family Separation"**

Steph wrote in red on the three pictures of native kids at boarding school to emphasize what these schools did. **Circle where Steph wrote "Forced to Leave," "Taken from their homes," and "Forced to Assimilate."**

FAMILY SEPARATION

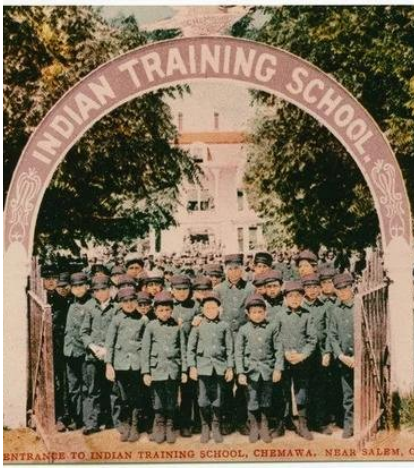
TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES

The U.S. government took Native children away from their families and homes. It sent the kids to boarding schools to destroy native cultures. At the boarding schools, the kids were forced to assimilate. The teacher made them cut their hair and wear western-style clothes. The kids had to speak English only, not their native languages. They had to practice Christianity. They were separated by gender to do work like cleaning, shoemaking, and carpentry.

How did the boarding schools try to destroy Native cultures?

Why might European-Americans have supported the boarding schools?

Should children ever be taken from their families? Why or why not?



FOREST GROVE SCHOOL

The second Indigenous boarding school in the whole country was in Forest Grove, Oregon. 310 students from 30 different tribes went to the Forest Grove School from 1880 to 1885. Then the school moved to Salem, Oregon where it still exists today. The kids had to build the dormitory houses and classrooms from scratch. Some of the students died from diseases. They never got to go home again. Other students grew up and used what they learned to stand up for their tribes.

FORCED TO LEAVE

This group of eleven Spokane children was photographed on their first day at the Forest Grove school. What emotions do you think they are feeling? What tells you that?

FORCED TO ASSIMILATE

This is the same group of Spokane children after seven months at the Forest Grove school. How does it compare to the previous photograph?

KIDS TODAY

Many traditions, languages, and lives were lost because of the boarding schools. Still, pieces of Native cultures survived. Kids spoke their native languages in secret. Elders passed on stories. Today, kids can proudly learn traditions like canoeing and dancing, and play video games or go skateboarding. They can make art and speak up for the land and Native rights.

What role does connection to family and elders play in passing on culture?

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Personal Writing

Learning about Native boarding schools can make us feel a lot of emotions. Some people feel sad, shocked, angry, scared, numb, a mix of everything, or some other emotion. Notice how you are feeling.

List key points to prepare your writing:

1

2

3

Write a personal paragraph reflecting on how you are feeling. Be sure to include an introduction sentence and a conclusion.