

American Indian Boarding Schools

An Exploration in Global Ethnic and Cultural Cleansing

Lesson 4: Public Consciousness

Brought to you by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe



Teacher Guide and Student Worksheets
A Supplementary Curriculum Guide written by

Zibiwing 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 links 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/>*

The Meriam Report

For this lesson you will need to access “The Meriam Report” at the following link.

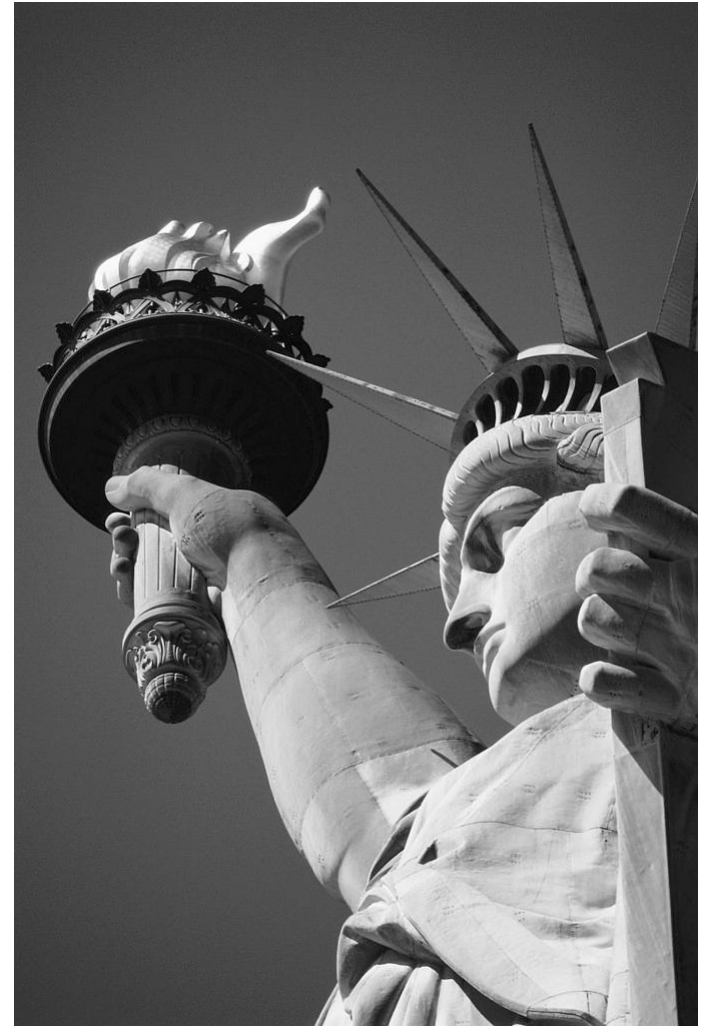
http://www.alaskool.org/native_ed/research_reports/IndianAdmin/Indian_Admin_Problms.htm

Essential Question:

How can it be that at the same moment in history that the Statue of Liberty was placed in New York Harbor to lift her lamp of hope to the world, American Indians had food withheld from them for not sending their children to American Indian Boarding Schools (bastions of systematic ethnic cleansing?)



"Give me your tired,
your poor, your huddled
masses yearning to
breathe free. The
wretched refuse of your
teeming shore. Send
these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the
golden door!"



Excerpt from the poem inscribed on the pedestal of Statue of Liberty.

Activity Four: What do you think?

View the PowerPoint for Lesson Four. Following this PowerPoint you will look at pages from the Meriam Report and the Ziibiwing Center Comparative Timeline to determine whether or not the United States knew it was violating the civil rights of American Indians during the 1800s, specifically forcing them to attend American Indian Boarding Schools.

Then, you will write an opinion paper answering the *essential question* from slide 5.



The Meriam Report

The Meriam Report:

“...is a survey of the economic and social conditions of the American Indians during the 1920's. Data was collected over seven months...95 different jurisdictions, either reservations, Indian agencies, hospitals or schools and also communities where Indians migrated.” *-Meriam Report Abstract*

This survey was conducted in 1928.

Tips for Research

- If you have not explored the Ziibiwing Timeline, do so now. Be fascinated but pay attention to what is happening in the lives of American Indians and what is happening at the federal level.
- Skim the Table of Contents and the First Chapter of the Meriam Report to get an idea of what it contains.
- It's good to have a partner for this Activity.