



# The Impacts of Assimilation

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
High School Social Studies Lesson

# In this lesson you will...:

- ❖ learn a brief history of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
- ❖ participate in discussion with your small group and the whole group.
- ❖ learn about the term “assimilation”.
- ❖ think critically about what culture is.
- ❖ work as a group to complete a worksheet at the end of the lesson.



# Brainstorm!

What is culture?




# CULTURE

Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music, and art.

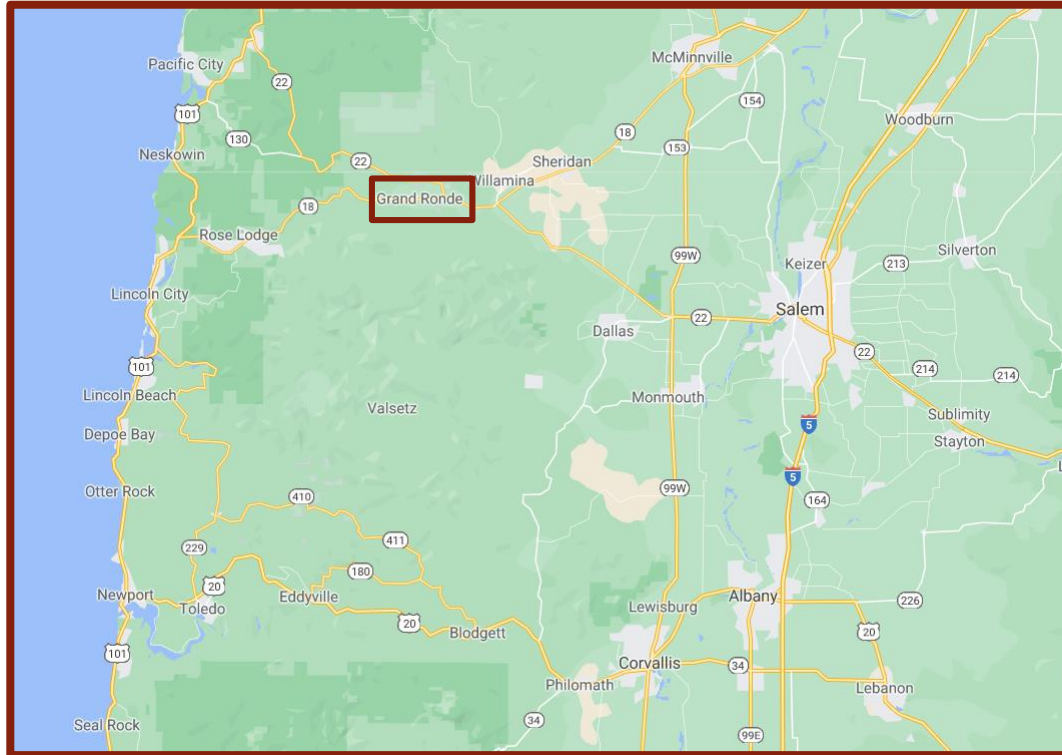


- Grand Ronde canoe paddlers -



**What do you know  
about the  
Confederated  
Tribes of Grand  
Ronde?**

# Where is Grand Ronde?





## Who is the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde?

- ❖ One of the nine federally recognized Native American tribes in Oregon.
- ❖ Made up of more than 27 different bands and tribes across Oregon and brought together on the reservation in Grand Ronde, Oregon.
- ❖ They have a unique culture, language and set of traditions practiced by their people.
- ❖ The Grand Ronde government/ Tribal Council and campus is currently located in Grand Ronde, Oregon.
- ❖ There are over 5,500 tribal member across the world.

# A Brief History of CTGR

- ❖ The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon includes **over 30 tribes and bands** from western Oregon, northern California, and southwest Washington. Since **time immemorial** tribal people have relied on these traditional landscapes for their livelihood. The fish and game were plentiful and what the lands didn't provide, they acquired by trade.
- ❖ This way of life changed with **western expansion**. Ratified and unratified treaties between the Tribes and the United States Government from 1853 through 1855 resulted in the **forced removal** of tribal members from their ancestral homelands.
- ❖ The Grand Ronde Tribe's **federal recognition status** was **terminated** in 1954 when Congress passed the **Western Oregon Termination Act**. This legislation **stripped** the Tribe of its federal status and **severed the trust** with the federal government. Between 1954 and 1983, Grand Ronde tribal members were a **landless people in their own land**. The termination policy robbed the Tribe of its **social, economic and political fabric**, leaving a scattered population and poverty.
- ❖ During these times of removal and termination, the United States Government placed **requirements and restrictions** upon the Native peoples in attempt to **eliminate their cultural practices and lifeways**.
- ❖ In 1983, the **federal recognition status** of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was **restored**. After restoration and the re-establishment of the Grand Ronde Reservation were completed, the Tribe focused on **rebuilding** its institutions and developing programs to meet the **needs of its members**.

For more information and more specifics regarding this information, visit: <https://www.grandronde.org/history-culture/history/our-story/>





# Brainstorm!

What is assimilation?





- Grand Ronde students planting camas -

# ASSIMILATIO N

Assimilation is the process of a group's language and/or culture coming to resemble those of another group.

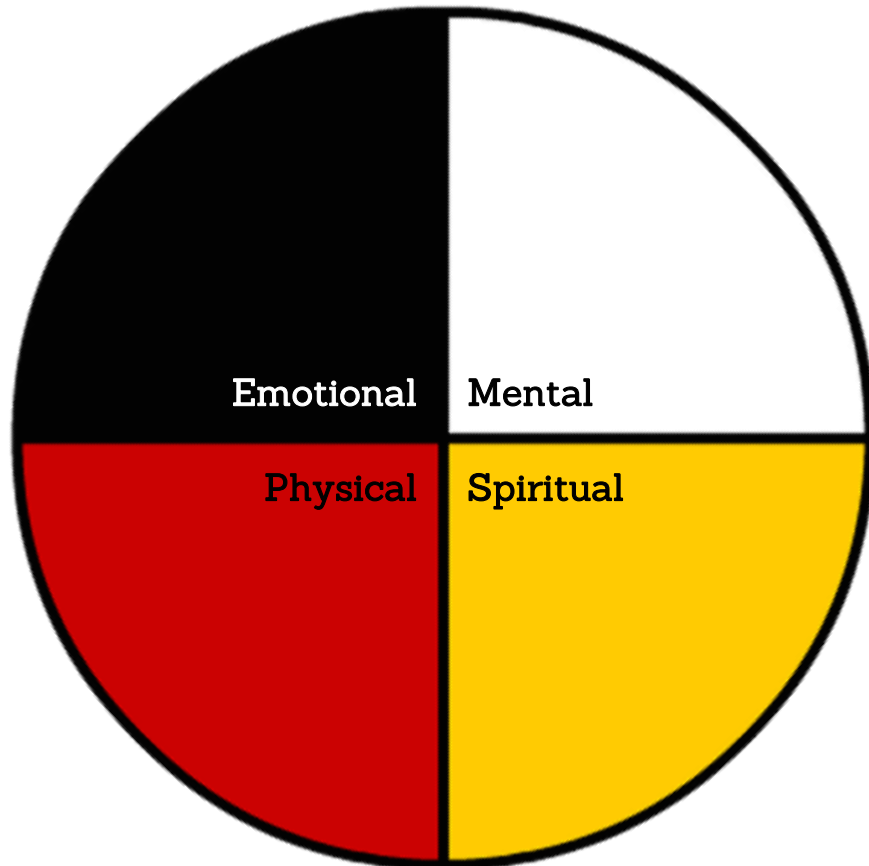


## Brainstorm!

Could assimilation be considered harmful,  
helpful, or both?



# Consider these aspects of health:



- ❖ This is the medicine wheel and many Native peoples utilize this structure as a balance for a person's health.
- ❖ Could assimilation have affected any or all of these aspects of health for Native people from Grand Ronde?



## Brainstorm!

How do you think assimilation would have affected the people of Grand Ronde?



# Aspects of Culture and Native Life that Were Affected

- ❖ Loss of Language
- ❖ Diet
- ❖ Family structures
- ❖ Location (where people lived)
- ❖ Hunting/ fishing practices
- ❖ Access to native resources
- ❖ Ceremonies were forgotten
- ❖ Connections to community
- ❖ Traditional songs and dances were lost
- ❖ Access to illegal substances (alcohol and drugs)
- ❖ Social gatherings
- ❖ Introduction of different religions

