

Peace with a
Price:
The Legacy of
Chief Seattle

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Group Exhibit

For History Day, we wanted to do our project on someone local, but also someone with lots of information about him. At first we wanted to do our project on the founder of our home town, Poulsbo, though we soon learned that we could find absolutely nothing about him. Then we thought about something larger, the city of Seattle. Then we wondered about Chief Seattle since we used to go to school in the community where he was buried. We figured that since the city of Seattle was named after him, he must have had a pretty big impact. When we knew that he had made a speech, been Chief of both Suquamish and Duwamish tribes, and had left a big mark on our local history, we knew that he was a good topic.

We conducted research by going to several different libraries, the Suquamish Museum, as well as using computers for internet research. In the first week or so, we went with our class to the Poulsbo Regional Library. There we found material mainly on Chief Seattle, not on what was happening around him. Later, we were able to find information about what how Chief Seattle impacted people, why that impact happened, and so on. At the Seattle Public Library we were able to find some good primary resources such as the first version of Seattle's speech. Also, at one of the University of Washington libraries we found lots of resources in the special collections department. We also went on the internet and found good quotes of Chief Seattle.

After we gathered our research we found that we could get a lot of quotes from different places. We could also confine the legacy of Chief Seattle to 500 words, which led to our choice for an exhibit. An eighth grader named Sarah was giving away a box that spun and rolled, but it did not fit the size limit so our families came up with our current design. We organized our exhibit into the four sections, which were before,

during, after, and Chief Seattle's speech. Thankfully, we found and quoted a timeline we got from our research.

Our topic relates to the National History Day theme because without Chief Seattle, life as we know it would be different. For one thing, the city Seattle would not have been named Seattle. Also, if the Suquamish and Duwamish decided to fight, Governor Stevens would have sent an army to fight off the Suquamish, Duwamish, and allied tribes. Chief Seattle also would not have made his speech which eventually helped spark the modern ecological movement.