

## Lesson Title: Historical Visualization

**Overview:** This is a guided visualization to help students use their imagination to understand the geologic and cultural history of the Puget Sound and the IslandWood site.

### Key goals and objectives:

Student will have a basic understanding of the geologic and human stories that have influenced this place in the last 20,000 years before present.

### Introduction and Activity:

I want you to sit or lay back and close your eyes. We are going to take a journey way back in time, twenty thousand years back, but we are going to still be in this place. I want you to picture yourself looking over at Seattle from the shores of Bainbridge Island. At the time we are talking about, you are not seeing the large body of saltwater like the one we know of today as the Puget Sound. You can see the Olympic Mountains to the West, and the Cascades to the East, but in between you see a low spot in the land with large rivers carved the landscape, and maybe some lakes, or open grasslands and forests. The rivers flowed north, snaking their way towards the Pacific Ocean between the Olympic Peninsula and Vancouver Island. These rivers left behind a thick sedimentary rock that we call BEDROCK. This bedrock contains many types of rocks from many different places, and tells a longer story about the Cascade and Olympic mountains.

Now I want you to move forward in time, to about 18,000 years ago. There is a glacier, a huge wall of ice, slowly moving down from Canada that eventually covers the spot where you are now sitting. Picture your home, the neighborhood where you live now, covered in 3,000 feet of ice or more. The glacier acts like a bulldozer, picking up everything in its path — trees and rocks — pushing, and relocating things in large piles of rocks and dirt. The rocks picked up are sometimes the size of refrigerators and small cars or larger, and are carried from mountains far away in Canada or the North Cascades.

A couple thousand years later, 16,000 years ago, those glaciers are starting to melt. As the glacier melts it leaves behind a fine sand and clay, something we call GLACIAL TILL, which contains many rocks that have been ground into a fine powder. The

**Theme:** Historical Background, glaciers, cultural history

**Concepts:** The place we live in now has been influenced by what happened in the past.

**Skills:** Imagination

**Age group:** grades 4 and up

**Venue/s:** Anywhere (adjacent to video)

**Materials:** A copy of the text for the visualization

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Set up:** None

water, as it melts, creates the deep channels that are now filled with salt water and are now known as the Puget Sound. The sea level would have been much different, and as the land returned to its original shape, just as a sponge does when you push down on it, the sea level has been changing ever since the glaciers melted.

Some time after the ice retreats, the first Native Americans arrive. They may have come across the Bering Land Bridge from Asia, they may have come across the water, sailing in canoes, or they may have already been here and just returned to their place. It depends on who you ask. The important thing is that they began a process of living in and learning about this place over thousands of years soon after the glaciers retreated. Can you imagine how well they knew this place?

Picture a forest full of life. There are trees around you that are 200 feet tall, fifteen or more feet across at the base that you can use to make canoes and homes. Everywhere you look there are plants you can use to eat, to make baskets and mats, to make fishing nets and colors to dye your clothes. Picture beaches covered with clams and crabs that you can eat, edible seaweeds and rivers full of fish. What do you think the homes would have looked like?

The Native Americans have lived here for more than 15,000 years, using the land, the animals, and the plants to survive. The Coast Salish people of the Puget Sound were some of the most populous and diverse groups of people in all of North America. They had large feasts, called potlatch, where people brought food and materials to share with everyone, much like we do today when you are invited to a potlatch dinner.

When another group of people came from the East, either in ships or by land, they encountered these intelligent people who used the land for everything that they needed. When the Europeans from the East saw the abundance of the Puget Sound they began to use the land in a very different way, and many people came from far away places to try their fortunes here. Drawn mainly by the giant trees, people of European, Japanese, Philipino, Hawaiian and many other ancestries came to the shores of Bainbridge Island.

Now, you can open your eyes, and we are going to watch two videos. The first will show how the glaciers shaped the Puget Sound, and the second will tell us more about the Port Blakely Mill.

***Segue to the Erratic Walk lesson and/or the Blakely Mill Video lesson...***