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## CURRICULUM AND LESSON PLANS

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## LESSON 1: WHERE IS WEST POINT?

### **SUBJECTS**

Social Studies, Geography, History, Washington State

### **DURATION**

20 to 30 minutes

### **CLASS SIZE**

10 to 30 students

### **OVERVIEW**

Students examine the geography of the Puget Sound region as preparation for studying the archaeology of West Point. During this lesson students will use maps to locate West Point as well as various geographical features and places in the vicinity of the site such as bodies of water, islands, rivers, mountains, cities, towns, archaeological sites, and ethnographic villages.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To identify the location of the West Point Site
- To examine geographical features surrounding the site
- To locate various places where Native people lived in the past and live today

### **MATERIALS**

Map of "Puget Sound Region" and graphic "Vicinity of West Point".

### **VOCABULARY**

**Archaeological site** - a place where human activity occurred and material remains were left behind.

**Ethnographic village** - a place occupied by people during historic times and described by anthropologists, early explorers, or native people.

**Topographic map** - a detailed map that shows surface features and changes in elevation.

### **BACKGROUND**

In order to begin learning about the archaeology of West Point students should be able to locate West Point on a map. Students should also be familiar with the basic geography of the area surrounding the site and the region. The West Point archaeological site is located in the northwestern part of Washington

State in the central part of the Puget Sound region. The site is specifically located in the Magnolia neighborhood of Seattle, northwest of downtown.

The Puget Sound is a deepwater inlet from the Pacific Ocean that forms a complex network of waterways and islands. The Puget Sound region encompasses over 100 miles from Whidbey Island and Admiralty Inlet in the north to Olympia in the south. The region includes a diverse range of geographical features such as islands, inlets, bays, mountains, rivers, and lakes. Many rivers and streams flow into the Sound from the drainages of the Cascade Mountains in the east and the Olympic Mountains in the west (See text on reverse side of "Puget Sound Region" map for additional background information about geographic and geologic setting).

Native people have inhabited the Puget Sound region for thousands of years. West Point is only one of many known archaeological sites in the Puget Sound region. Other well known archaeological sites include the Duwamish River sites and the Old Man House site on Bainbridge Island. This lesson directs students to use maps to find the West Point site, examine geographical features surrounding the site, and locate archaeological sites and ethnographic villages in the vicinity of West Point.

## PROCEDURE

1. Display the map of the "Puget Sound Region" in the front of the class.
2. Have students locate where they live.
3. Point out the location of West Point. Ask if students have ever been to West Point? Discovery Park? the lighthouse?
4. Ask students to identify various geographical features and places in the vicinity of West Point. Students should be able to find these geographical features and places:

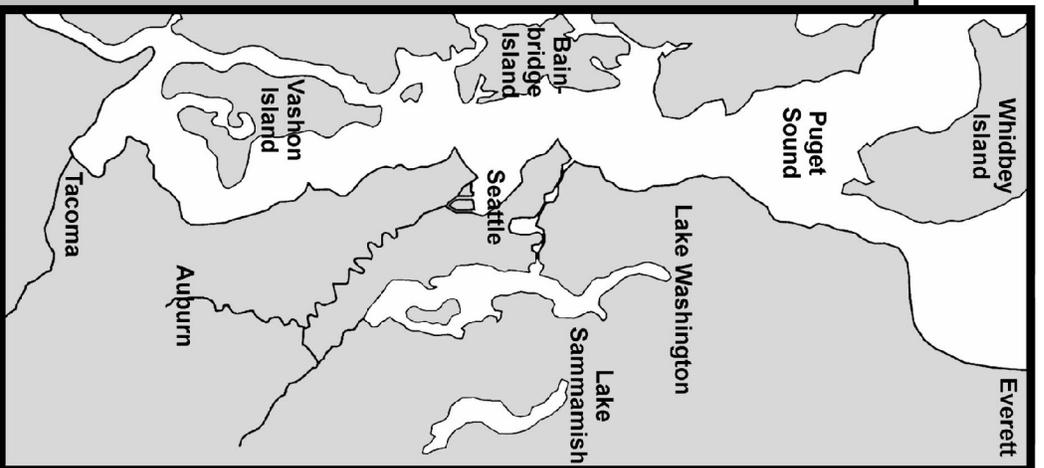
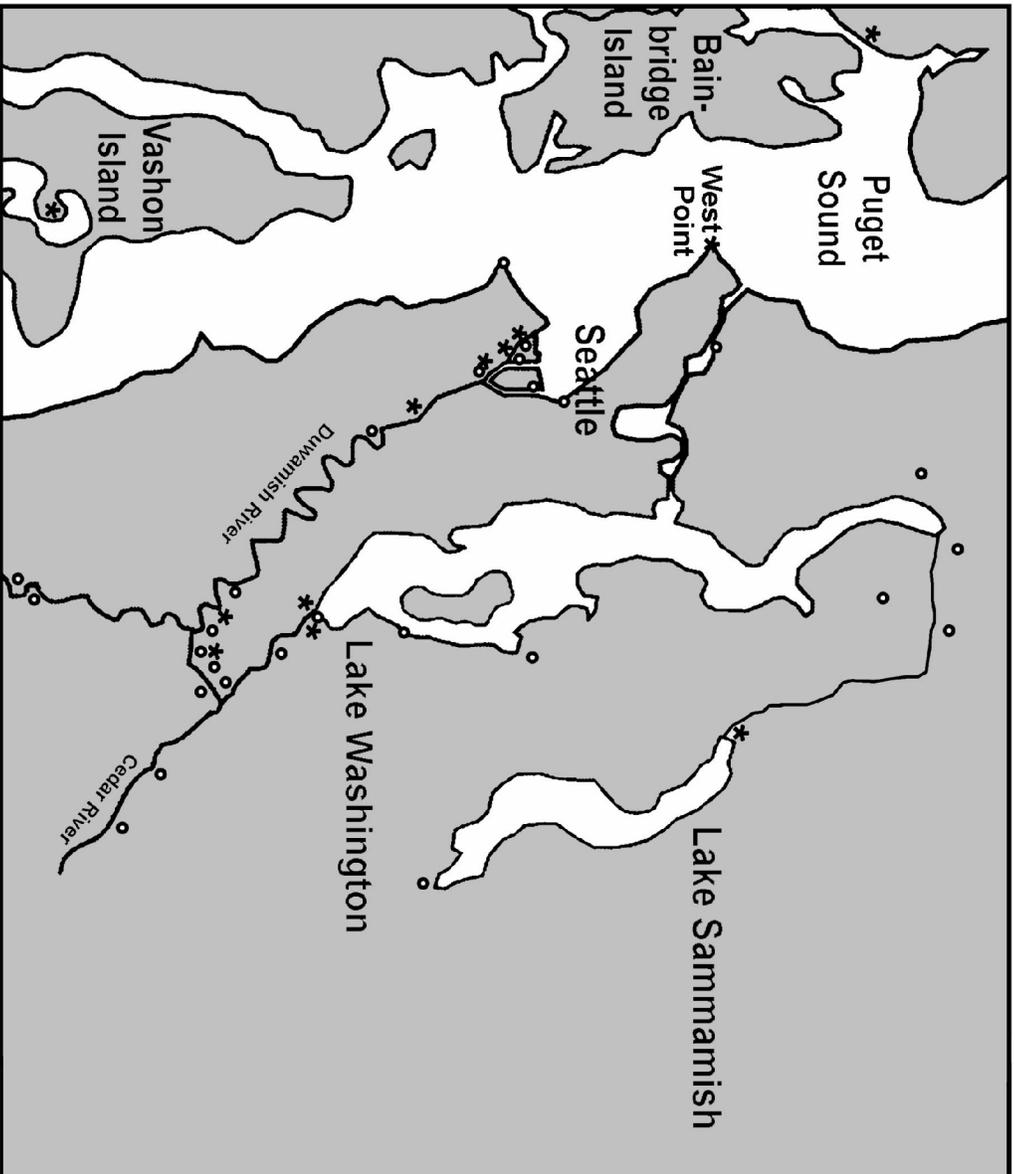
|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Puget Sound                | Cedar River             |
| Elliot Bay                 | Everett                 |
| Lake Washington Ship Canal | Marysville              |
| Lake Union                 | Tulalip Reservation     |
| Portage Bay                | Stillaguamish River     |
| Lake Washington            | Skykomish River         |
| Seattle                    | Snoqualmie River        |
| Bainbridge Island          | Green River             |
| Kitsap Peninsula           | White River             |
| Suquamish                  | Auburn                  |
| Port Madison Reservation   | Muckleshoot Reservation |
| Duwamish River             |                         |

5. Display the graphic "The Vicinity of West Point".
6. Introduce the idea that Native people have lived in this region for thousands of years.
7. Explain that archaeologists have investigated archaeological sites throughout the Puget Sound region to learn about how people lived in the past, and how the landscape has changed.
8. Locate the different archaeological sites marked on the graphic "The Vicinity of West Point".
9. Explain that early explorers encountered Native people living in various villages throughout the region. These villages are referred to as ethnographic villages.
10. Locate the various ethnographic villages on the graphic "The Vicinity of West Point".
11. Compare the locations of the archaeological sites to the locations of ethnographic villages.
12. Discuss the different places where Native people from the Puget Sound lived in the past compared to where they live today.

## REFERENCES

Larson, Lynn L. and Dennis E. Lewarch eds. The Archaeology of West Point. Seattle: Larson Anthropological/Archaeological Services, 1995.

# VICINITY OF WEST POINT



Selected Place Names, Ethnographic Villages (o), and Archaeological Sites (\*).