

# DISCOVER EBHEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE



## A Junior Ranger Activity

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **GETTING TO KNOW EBHEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE:**

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve is made up of 17,572 acres located in Central Whidbey Island. That's about 27.5 square miles. To get to the island, you can drive a vehicle, take a ferry boat, ride a bike, or hike.

*If you were to come for a visit, where would you be visiting from?* \_\_\_\_\_

### **THE MAKING OF THE RESERVE:**

Ebey's Reserve is the very first national historical reserve, created by congress in 1978. The Reserve is a living, working community just like yours. Most of the land in the Reserve is privately owned, but you will also find wonderful state and community parks and trails that are open to the public.

The Town of Coupeville, Island County, Washington State Parks, and the National Park Service work in partnership to protect the special places throughout the Reserve. The emblem of the Reserve is a graphic image of the bluff overlooking Ebey's Landing State Park, and is a symbol of the partnership.

*When have you done something with other people that you could not have done alone?*

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### **COASTAL SALISH PEOPLE:**

The Coastal Salish people called "Skagit" [pronounced SKAD-jit], lived on Whidbey Island in the heart of present day Ebey's Reserve for 10,000 years.

Penn Cove was home to at least three permanent villages. One of them was called

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Bah-TSAHD-zah-lee, or ‘snake place’. This is the area that is now the Town of Coupeville.

The Skagit and their neighbors fished and harvested shellfish from Penn Cove and the surrounding waters of the Salish Sea. In nearby prairies and forests they hunted game and fowl, and they collected plants such as berries and camas bulbs. Here, nature supported the largest native population in the region.

*If you were a Salish person in Central Whidbey, 500 years ago, what else would you need to survive?*

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### **WHAT HELPED MAKE THE PRAIRIES?**

Glaciers had a big impact in forming the prairies that you will find throughout the Reserve. Long ago, the entire Reserve was covered in ice over a mile deep that left glacial defining features on the landscape. Some of those features are:

**Glacial Erratic:** A boulder transported and deposited by a glacier having a different source than the bedrock upon which it is sitting. There is a giant glacial erratic located on Main Street in the Town of Coupeville.

**Kettle:** A depression left in a mass of glacial drift, formed by the melting of an isolated block of glacial ice.

**Moraine:** Accumulated earth and stones pushed and deposited by the glacier.

**Till:** Unsorted clay, sand, gravel and boulders deposited by a glacier within moraines.

### **THE RACE FOR EMPIRE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST:**

In 1792, when George Washington was president of the United States, the kings of both England and Spain sent explorers to chart and claim the Pacific Northwest. Britain’s Captain Vancouver and Spain’s Bodega y Quadra could have gone to war, but instead they worked together to chart the Salish Sea.

The explorers from Spain named these places in Washington State: Port Angeles, Fidalgo Island, Lopez Island, Rosario Strait, and San Juan Island.

The explorers from England named these places in Washington State: Port Townsend, Hood Canal, Puget Sound, Whidbey Island and Penn Cove.

*Do you know a place that was once called one name then changed to another? What is it?*

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## **THE SETTLERS ARRIVE – A Pioneer's prospective on his life:**

*A letter from Col. Isaac Ebey to his brother Winfield Scott Ebey encouraging him to move to the west and Oregon Territory:*

Olympia, Oregon  
April 25, 1851

My dear brother –

I scarcely know how I shall write or what I shall write... The great desire of [my] heart is, and has been, to get my own and father's family to this country. I think it would be a great move. I have always thought so...

To the north down along Admiralty Inlet (that portion of water connecting Puget Sound with the Straits of Juan de Fuca) the cultivating land is generally found confined to the valleys of streams with the exception of Whidby's Island (the large island that blocks up and terminates the Straits of Fuca on the east) which is almost a paradise of nature.

I have taken my claim on it and am now living on the same in order to avail myself of the provisions of the Donation law. If Rebecca, the children, and you all were hwere, I could live and die here content. – Isaac N. Ebey

*Have you ever gone somewhere new and wished that all your friends and family could come there with you? Write a letter telling a friend or family about a place you think is special.*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A VISIT TO HISTORIC FRONT STREET:**

The Town of Coupeville is one of the oldest towns in the state of Washington. Nestled on the shores of Penn Cove, the buildings of different ages and styles tell the continuing story of Central Whidbey and its rural community. Take a walk down historic Front Street and you will see many buildings from when the town was founded. Oval plaques mounted on these buildings show their age and their significance as contributing structures within the Reserve.

*Do you have historic buildings in your community or town?*

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## **THE BLOCKHOUSES:**

At one time, there were over a dozen blockhouses in Central Whidbey. Today, only 4 remain: The Ebey Blockhouse, the Davis Blockhouse, the Crockett Blockhouse, and the Alexander Blockhouse. What is a blockhouse? A blockhouse is a small "fort" resembling a log cabin placed on top of a smaller cabin. Originally built as a means of protection from possible attacks by local tribes, the blockhouses were never actually used for this purpose.

*What else might have blockhouses been used for?*

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## **GROWING FOOD ON THE PRAIRIE:**

Farmland is everywhere throughout the Reserve. Some of the crops being grown are barley, cabbage, potatoes, squash and pumpkins. In addition, farmers grow mustard, beans, corn, raspberries, lavender, wheat, and garlic.

*Do you have a garden? What do you grow and what is your favorite fruit and vegetables?*

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## **RAPTORS IN THE RESERVE:**

A raptor is a large carnivorous bird that feeds on small animals or carrion (dead animals). Ebey's Reserve is home to many raptors. You'll see them gliding high in the sky, sitting patiently on a fence post, or even following a tractor in a farm field. In each case, they are probably hunting for their next meal!

Raptors share 3 distinct features: powerful eyesight, a hooked beak, and strong talons. The most common raptors in the Reserve are the Blad Eagle, Northern Harrier, and the Red Tailed Hawk. Owls are more frequently seen at twilight or at heard at night.

*What sound does an owl make?* \_\_\_\_\_

*What kinds of raptors can be found in your part of the country?*

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## **ADMIRALTY LIGHTHOUSE:**

At Fort Casey State Park, one of the partners of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, you will find Admiralty Lighthouse, which sits above Admiralty Inlet. The lighthouse stood watch over the entrance to Puget Sound and guided sailing ships towards their destination. Today, it overlooks Fort Casey, the Olympic Mountains, and over to Port Townsend.

The original lighthouse (called Red Bluff Lighthouse) sat on a promontory to the south under the supervision of the first lighthouse keeper, William Robertson, and was in operation from 1861 until 1903, when the new Admiralty Head lighthouse was constructed. It remained in operation until 1922.

Admiralty Head Lighthouse is open to the public throughout the year.

## **SCHOOL DAYS OF SAN DE FUCA:**

The San de Fuca community sits just across the waters of Penn Cover from Coupeville. Built in 1903, the San de Fuca Schoolhouse still stands on the north end of the Reserve overlooking Penn Cove. One large main room housed all the grades from 1<sup>st</sup> Grade up through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Children didn't ride the bus to get to school, or have their parents drive them. They would generally walk to school.

*How is the San de Fuca Schoolhouse different from your school?*

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## **SPREAD THE WORD!**

Your final task is to share something you have learned about Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve with someone else.

*Have them sign here:* \_\_\_\_\_

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## JR RANGER PLEDGE:

I am proud to be an Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Junior Ranger. I promise to: Continue learning about Ebey's Reserve. Get to know the plants and animals in my own community. And, share what I learned with my friends and family.

Junior Ranger Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

When you've completed the program, you will have earned your Junior Ranger Badge and will soon be awarded the title of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Junior Ranger!

Mail your completed activity sheets to:

**Ebey's Landing NHR  
Junior Ranger Program  
P.O. Box 774  
Coupeville, WA 98239**

You will receive an official Junior Ranger Badge in the mail~

Thank You for learning about Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve!