

**Name:** Evan Silk

**Title:** A Poster about the Esselen People at the Big Creek Natural Reserve

**Project Statement:**

With proposed development of a new classroom at the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve, I will be designing a poster for use as a teaching tool to familiarize visitors with the early indigenous life at Big Creek. The display will focus on the connection the Esselen people had with the natural world. Accompanied by photographs, as well as original drawings, the poster will showcase how the Esselen incorporated the many natural resources that surround Big Creek into their everyday lives as they lived year-round on the rugged Big Sur coast.

**Background/Justification:**

From the bedrock mortars sitting above the flowing creeks, multiple shell middens, and everything in between, cultural remains tell important stories of the past on the Big Creek landscape. The Esselen lived life side by side with nature, caring for the lands that gave them everything they had. The proposed poster will outline an important piece of natural history, giving visitors the chance to learn about a vanished culture of deeply rooted naturalists and the plentiful resources of Big Creek. Many classes will frequent the new building at Big Creek and there is an opportunity to incorporate key aspects of the diverse natural history of the property into one room for learning to take place. A poster highlighting the Esselen of Big Creek will show the many visitors how the community of indigenous people was able to live off the land acting as topmost naturalists and encourage the development of visitors to envision the landscape as a functioning village as they wander the property.

**Preparation:**

I am well prepared to construct this project for several reasons. My interest in indigenous life is not new. I grew up independently studying the Chumash that once inhabited the coastal bluffs and the foothills of my hometown Carpinteria. It was the hours spent searching for caves, artifacts, and rock art that expanded my knowledge and brought me to some of the most spectacular cultural sites that served as a teaching tool for natural history. Being a student in Natural History Field Quarter, I was exposed to a new way of learning and given the tools to succeed as an environmental teacher. While at Big Creek with NHFQ, I gave a presentation on the Esselen people and made it my mission to discover as many culturally significant sites as possible. It was then I was exposed to how much culture remains on the Big Creek land, not in its entirety, but rather in bits and pieces that mend together to form a story of the past. This past summer I took the natural science illustration course at UCSC which taught me several different approaches to taking images that I see in nature and portraying them on paper. This class refined my skills in ink stippling and led me to create a series of arrowhead illustrations that were re-created from drawings in a past text on an archaeology surface scan performed at Big Creek. I am currently using several texts to prepare me for an accurate portrayal of the Esselen in the poster. The books I am reading are: The History of the California Native Americans, The Ohlone Way, UCSC Archaeology of Big Creek, UCSC Archaeology of Gamboa Pt., and more.

My background will assist me in developing a resource to be used in introducing an important part of natural history to all those that visit the new classroom at Big Creek.

**Implementation/Timeline:**

I plan to develop a poster that will illustrate how the Esselen used the forest, creeks, ocean, geological features, flora, fauna and supernatural influence of Big Creek to provide themselves with the necessities for living. The poster will be created using InDesign, showcasing photographs, original ink drawings of Big Creek artifacts, and finely-developed descriptions to aid these visual representations. The cost estimates are for one poster, but it would be nice to produce two laminated final copies, one for the classroom at Big Creek and one for the Norris Center. The estimated completion date of the project is the end of Fall 2015 quarter.

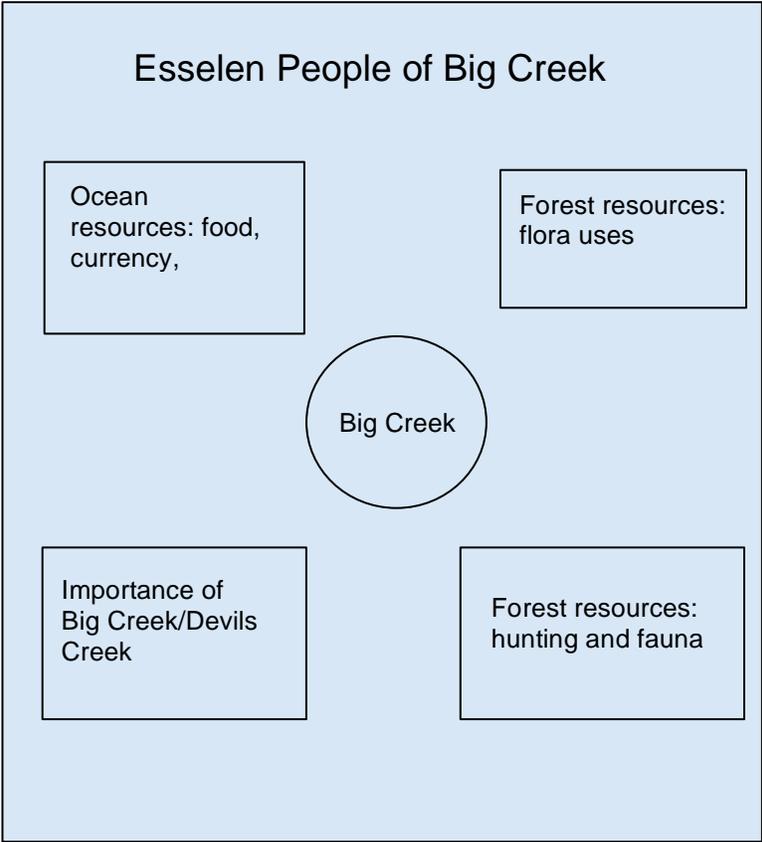
**Timeline for completion:**

Nov. 5th-13th	Nov. 13th-15th	Nov.16th-Dec.1th	Dec.1-10th
Read different texts to develop information for poster and create structure of poster	Travel to Big Creek to take photos and make observations on landscape/cultural sites.	Compile photos, written descriptions, illustrations that are to be added to poster using InDesign.	Upload files into InDesign and create poster to printed.

**Mentoring:**

I plan of receiving guidance from Chris Lay and Mark Readdie throughout my project. The many books of the Norris Center collection and the web will serve as my research guides. Weekly check-ins will be arranged with Chris to track progress and receive feedback to be incorporated into the final project. Along with this, I'll be traveling to the reserve Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> to re-visit the landscape and the Esselen cultural sites with a camera to take photos that will be presented on the poster. While at the reserve, I will meet with Mark and Feynner, so we can exchange information to further aid in my research on Esselen life at Big Creek. I have already communicated with Mark about the sensitive nature of revealing where important archaeological sites are found and the importance of not disturbing any artifacts at the reserve. My poster will not convey any information about site locations and it will remind readers to respect any sites they do find on the reserve.

**Poster outline:**



(\*rough draft; subject to change)

(\*\*blank areas will be photographs or drawings illustrating the written descriptions)

**Proposal Budget:**

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**Poster Supplies:**

- Materials for constructing one poster (22 x 30)
  - Microns for illustration \$7 (Bay Tree Bookstore)
  - Printing \$40 (MPress Digital)
  - Laminating \$55-60 (FedEx)

**Transportation:**

- Gas: 15-18 MPG @ \$3.10/gal. 187 mi. round trip = \$40

**UC Reserve Fee**

- 2 nights @ \$5 = \$10

**GRAND TOTAL: \$200**