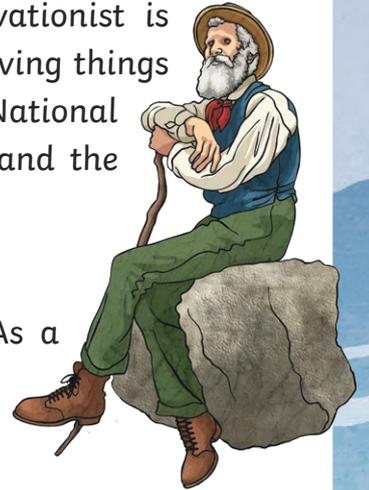


John Muir

John Muir was one of the first conservationists. A conservationist is someone who wants to conserve or protect natural places or living things from being destroyed. He is fondly known as 'The Father of the National Parks'. John Muir Day is celebrated every year in Scotland and the state of California.

Early Life

John Muir was born in 1838, in Dunbar near Edinburgh. As a boy, John loved exploring wild places, studying nature and inventing things. In 1849, when John was 11 years old, his family emigrated from Scotland to the United States.



In 1867, John went to work in a factory. When a tool he was using struck his eye, John was left temporarily blind. After several weeks, his sight came back and because of this, he knew that he wanted to explore the outdoors more than anything. John went on a 1000-mile walk from Wisconsin to Florida and then sailed to Cuba.

John settled in the Sierra Nevada, a mountain range in California. He worked as a shepherd and this gave him time to study the natural wilderness, climb and explore glaciers. John led many visitors who wanted to explore this beautiful and rugged area. Muir loved everything about nature; the insects, the wild animals, the plants, trees, rivers and mountains. He understood that all of these things were connected to each other.

John the Writer

In 1872, John became a writer. He went on to write and publish many articles and books about looking after nature. John's love of nature led him to want to protect it all. In 1890, he helped in making the Yosemite Valley in California one of the first National Parks in the USA. Yosemite is home to the ancient giant sequoia trees. Giant sequoia trees are the largest living organisms on earth, they can grow to over 70 metres tall!





Did You Know?

Forest fires are essential to make new sequoia trees. Heat from the fire releases the seeds from the cones. The fire also clears the ground allowing new trees to grow.

The Sierra Club

In 1892, along with other conservationists, John formed the Sierra Club. Muir was the club's first president and he remained president until his death in 1914. The Sierra Club has helped to create a series of new National Parks and a National Wilderness Preservation System.

Today, the Sierra Club has over three million members and it protects over one billion hectares of wild space. One of its key aims is 'to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.' In the late 20th century, the club supported the Clean Air and Clean Water Act.



The John Muir Trust

The John Muir Trust is a charity that was started in the UK in 1983 to preserve and protect wild places. They own, care for and protect areas of wilderness in Scotland, including Ben Nevis and an area on Skye.



Questions

1. Where was John Muir born?

John Muir was born in _____.

2. Name three things John enjoyed as a child.

3. Which word in the text means 'for a short period of time'?

4. Label the sentences to show if they are true or false.

- John Muir emigrated to Scotland.
- Yosemite is home to the giant sequoia tree.
- Yosemite National Park is in Florida.
- John was president of the Sierra Club.

5. Why are forest fires essential for the sequoia tree?

6. Match the sentences

The Sierra Nevada

was the first national park in the USA.

Dunbar, Edinburgh

is where John first lived in America.

Yosemite Valley

is John's birthplace.

Wisconsin

is a mountain range in California.

7. Use two adjectives to describe John.

8. Why do you think John Muir was drawn to explore and protect nature?

Answers

1. Where was John Muir born?

John Muir was born in **Dunbar, near Edinburgh.**

2. Name three things John enjoyed as a child.

Studying, exploring and inventing.

3. Which word in the text means 'for a short period of time'?

Temporarily.

4. Label the sentences to show if they are true or false.

F John Muir emigrated to Scotland.

T Yosemite is home to the giant sequoia tree.

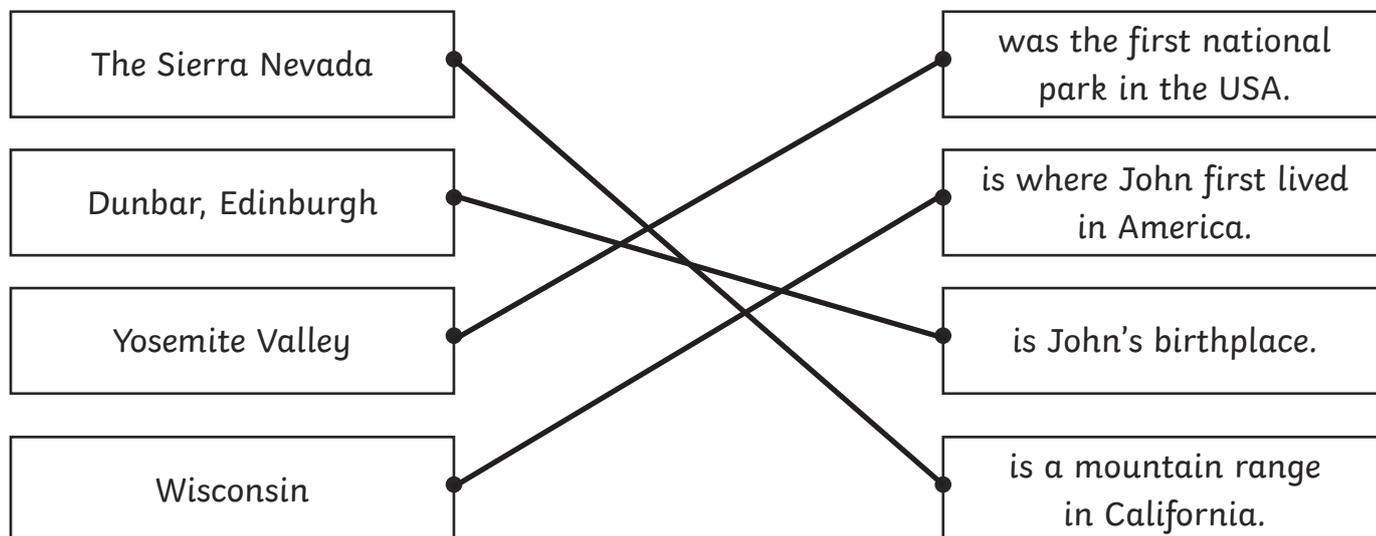
F Yosemite National Park is in Florida.

T John was president of the Sierra Club.

5. Why are forest fires essential for the sequoia tree?

Forest fires are essential for the sequoia tree because the heat from the fire releases the seeds from its cones.

6. Match the sentences



7. Use two adjectives to describe John.

Children's own responses.

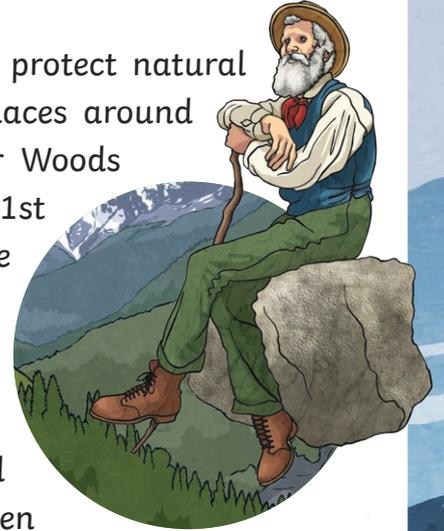
8. Why do you think John Muir was drawn to explore and protect nature?

Children's own responses.

John Muir

John Muir was an influential Scottish conservationist.

A conservationist is someone who wants to conserve or protect natural places or living things from being destroyed. Several places around the world have even been named after him, from Muir Woods in California to the John Muir Way in Scotland. The 21st of April is John Muir Day in Scotland and in the state of California; events and activities are held to celebrate Muir's love of the outdoors.



Muir was born in 1838, in Dunbar near Edinburgh. As a boy, John loved to explore wild places; he often ambled along the coastline around his family home. In 1849, when John was 11 years old, his family emigrated from Scotland to the United States. John lived and worked on the family's farm in Wisconsin for 10 years. He enjoyed studying, exploring and inventing things.

In 1867, John went to work in a factory. When a tool he was using struck his eye, John was left temporarily blind. After several weeks, his sight came back and he became determined to explore the outdoors. His first expedition was a 1000-mile walk from Wisconsin to Florida. He didn't plan his route and walked through remote and wild areas. Following his adventure, he wrote the book 'A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf'.

John settled in the Sierra Nevada, a mountain range in California. He worked as a shepherd and this gave him time to study nature, climb and explore glaciers. John led many visitors who wanted to explore this beautiful and rugged area. Muir loved everything about nature; the insects, the wild animals, the plants, trees, rivers and mountains. He understood that all of living things were dependant on each other.

In 1872, John became a writer. He went on to write and publish many articles and books about looking after nature. In 1890, he helped in making the Yosemite Valley in California one of the first National Parks in the USA. Yosemite is home to giant ancient sequoia trees. Giant sequoia trees are the tallest trees on earth, they can grow to over 70 metres tall!



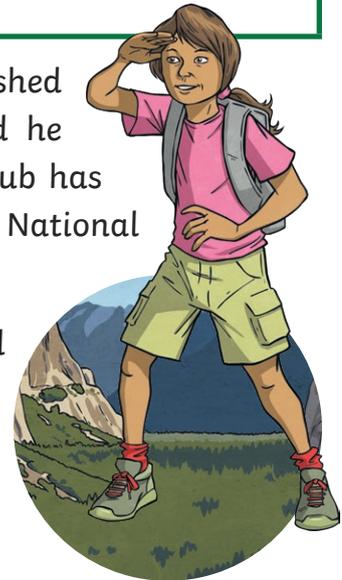


Did You Know?

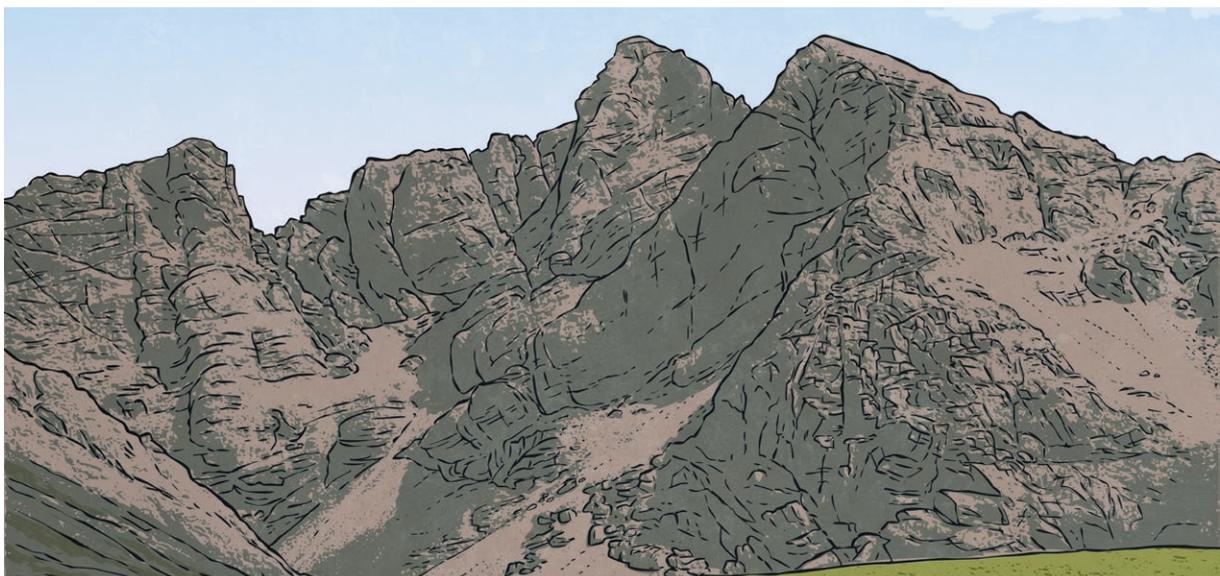
Forest fires are essential for the germination of new sequoia trees. The sequoia's bark protects it from the fire but the heat helps to release the seeds from the cones. The fire also clears the ground and allows new trees to grow.

In 1892, along with other conservationists, John established the Sierra Club. Muir was the club's first president and he remained president until his death in 1914. The Sierra Club has helped to create a series of new National Parks and a National Wilderness Preservation System.

Today, the Sierra Club has over three million members and it protects over one billion hectares of wild space. One of its key aims is 'to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.' In the late 20th century, the club supported the Clean Air and Clean Water Act.



John Muir Trust is a charity that was started in the UK in 1983 to preserve and protect wild places. They own, care for and protect areas of wilderness in Scotland, including Ben Nevis and an area on Skye. John Muir's work also helped lead to the founding of Scotland's National Parks in 2002 and 2003; the Cairngorms, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.



Questions

1. What is a conservationist?

2. Find the word in the text that means 'journey'?

3. What happened in John's life that made him determined to explore the outdoors?

4. What fact shows that John was adventurous?

5. Draw a line to match the date with the event.

1914

1849

21st April 1838

1867

1890

Muir began his 1000-mile walk from Wisconsin to Florida.

Muir died of pneumonia.

Muir emigrated to the USA aged 11.

John Muir was born in Dunbar, Scotland.

The first national park in America is founded.

6. Use three adjectives to describe John Muir.

7. What do you think "he understood that all living things were dependant on each other" means? Provide an example.

8. Why after 100 years, is John Muir still honoured?

9. Would you like to go for a walk with John Muir? Give a reason for your answer.

Answers

1. What is a conservationist?

A conservationist is a person who cares for the environment and wants to protect it.

2. Find the word in the text that means 'journey'?

Expedition.

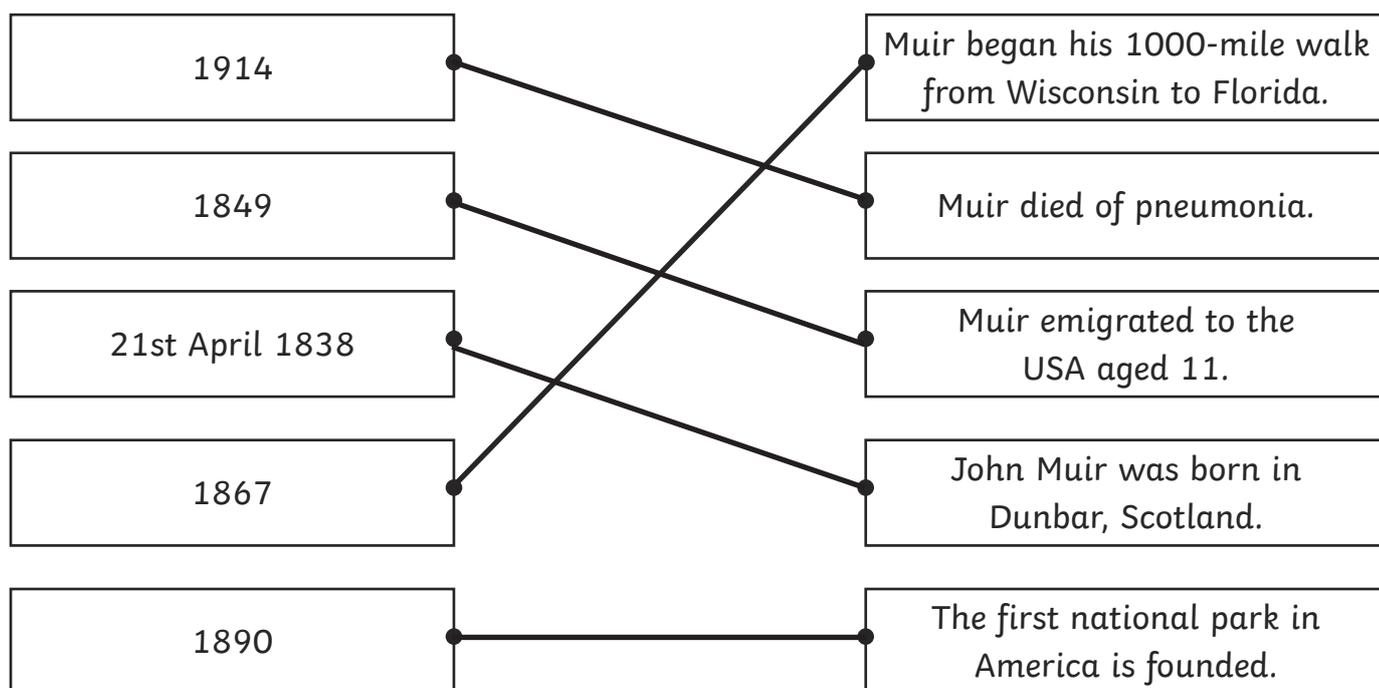
3. What happened in John's life that made him determined to explore the outdoors?

John had an accident at work that made him temporarily blind.

4. What fact shows that John was adventurous?

John went on a 1000-walk from Wisconsin for Florida and didn't plan his route; he climbed glaciers.

5. Draw a line to match the date with the event.



6. Use three adjectives to describe John Muir.

Example answers: adventurous; courageous; caring; compassionate.

7. What do you think "he understood that all living things were dependant on each other" means? Provide an example.

Example answer: the phrase means that each living thing needs another living thing to survive. For example, a cow needs grass to eat, bees need flowers.

8. Why after 100 years, is John Muir still honoured?

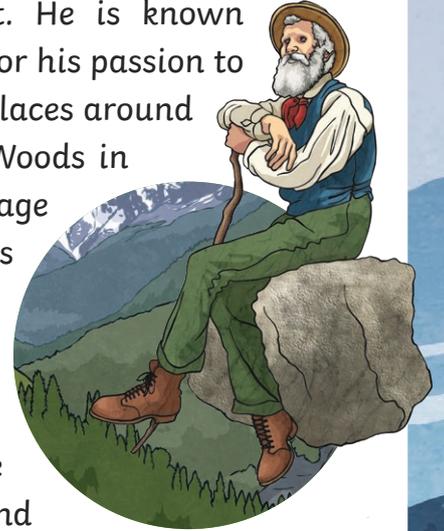
Example answer: John is honoured because of his conservation work and he inspired people to take care of the environment.

9. Would you like to go for a walk with John Muir? Give a reason for your answer.

Children's own responses.

John Muir

John Muir was an influential Scottish conservationist. He is known around the world as the father of the national parks and for his passion to preserve the environment for future generations. Several places around the world have even been named after him, from Muir Woods in California to the John Muir Way in Scotland. Muir's message that we all need to enjoy and care for nature is just as important today as it was when he was alive.



John Muir was born in 1838, in Dunbar near Edinburgh. As a boy, John developed a deep love of nature; he regularly went for walks along the rugged Scottish coastline. He loved to explore the landscapes in different weathers and particularly enjoyed watching the turbulent waves during a storm. In 1849, when John was 11 years old, his family emigrated from Scotland to the United States.

In 1867, an industrial accident left John temporarily blind. When his eyesight returned so did his determination to explore the outdoors. His first expedition was a 1000-mile walk from Wisconsin to Florida which he recounted in his book, 'A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf'. He didn't plan his route, except he went by the "wildest, leafiest, and least trodden way he could find."

John settled in the Sierra Nevada mountains in California. He worked as a shepherd and this gave him time to study the natural wilderness, as well as climbing and exploring glaciers. John led many visitors on excursions to discover the beautiful and rugged area. Muir recognised that biodiversity is the life support system of the planet. He understood that living things are interdependent on each other and a variety of life is crucial.



In 1872, John became an accomplished and respected writer. He published many articles and books about conservation and inspired thousands with his passion for wild places. His activism helped to preserve the Yosemite Valley, Sequoia National Park and other wilderness areas in America. Yosemite is home to the ancient giant sequoia tree.

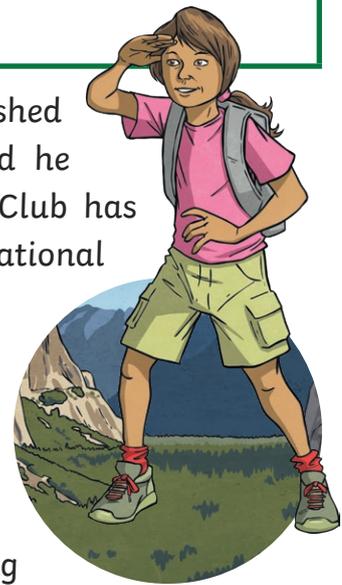


Did You Know?

Giant sequoia trees are found in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, California, an area renowned for forest fires during the scorching summer months. However, forest fires are essential for the tree's germination. The sequoia's bark is fire resistant and the heat from the fire releases the seeds from its cones. The fire also clears the ground and allows new trees to cultivate.

In 1892, along with other conservationists, John established the Sierra Club. Muir was the club's first president and he remained president until his death in 1914. The Sierra Club has helped to create a series of new National Parks and a National Wilderness Preservation System.

Today, the Sierra Club has over three million members and it protects over one billion hectares of wild space. One of its key aims is 'to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.' In the late 20th century, the club supported the Clean Air and Clean Water Act campaigning against the use of fossil fuels such as coal.



The John Muir Trust is a charity that was started in the UK in 1983 to preserve and protect wild places. They own, care for and protect areas of wilderness in Scotland. Muir's work also helped lead to the establishment of Scotland's National Parks in 2002 and 2003; the Cairngorms, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.



Questions

1. Why is John Muir fondly known as 'The Father of the National Parks'?

2. Which word in the text means 'to have willpower'?

3. What does the phrase 'life support of the planet' mean?

4. Why do you think John's temporary blindness made him determined to explore the outdoors?

5. Which two facts show that John Muir was an adventurous person?

6. Use three adjectives to describe John Muir.

7. Write in chronological order five key events in John Muir's life.

8. Would you like to go for a walk with John Muir? Give a reason for your answer.

9. Why is it important to protect the environment? Give a reason for your answer.

10. Research another influential conservationist.

Answers

1. Why is John Muir fondly known as 'The Father of the National Parks'?

John Muir is fondly known as 'The Father of National Parks' because he founded the national parks.

2. Which word in the text means 'to have willpower'?

Determined or determination.

3. What does the phrase 'life support of the planet' mean?

The phrase 'life support of the planet' means different types of living things keep the world alive.

4. Why do you think John's temporary blindness made him determined to explore the outdoors?

Example answer: John's temporary blindness made him determined to explore the outdoors because it made him realise the importance of appreciating the world around him.

5. Which two facts show that John Muir was an adventurous person?

Facts that show John was an adventurous person are: he went on a 1000-mile hike without a planned route; as a child, he enjoyed watching waves during a storm; he enjoyed climbing glaciers.

6. Use three adjectives to describe John Muir.

Example answers: adventurous; courageous; caring; compassionate.

7. Write in chronological order five key events in John Muir's life.

Children's own responses.

8. Would you like to go for a walk with John Muir? Give a reason for your answer.

Children's own responses.

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Children's own responses.

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Children's own responses.