DISCOVER AMERICA

Teacher Guide



Safeguarding Our Planet: Conservation and Stewardship



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Key Themes

- Conservation
- Stewardship

Core Values

- Community
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- Define conservation.
- Define stewardship.
- List three ways to protect Earth.
- Describe the role John Muir played in conservation.
- Explain the relationship between President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir.
- Analyze the relationship between Yosemite National Park, John Muir's legacy, and the broader concept of conservation.

Key Terms

- 0 1 avalanche: a large amount of snow that quickly moves down a slope.
- 0 2 **conservation:** protecting our environment and the wildlife that lives in it.
- 0 3 **environment:** everything that is around us, which includes both living and nonliving things such as soil, water, animals, and plants.
- 0 4 **preserve:** to keep safe from harm or to protect.
- 0 5 **stewardship:** how we take care of everything God has given to us.

Introduction

TELL Students

Let's go on an adventure! [Gather the class and take them outside, weather permitting, to explore. Reserve the playground or an area on your school property where students can freely look around and use their five senses to explore.] Use your five senses to explore.

ASK Students

What senses are you using? What do you see? What do you smell? What do you hear? How do you feel?

TELL Students

I see big, fluffy clouds. I hear birds chirping. I smell flowers. I see colorful plants. Our world is filled with so many beautiful sights! And guess what? We have a very important job.

ASK Students

What important job do you think I am talking about?

TELL Students 🙉

God made this wonderful world, and He wants us to look after it and all its treasures. Today, we are going to learn ways to take care of God's creation, the Earth you live on. We are also going to learn about a man named John Muir who loved nature. [Reference John Muir Image.] People call him "The Father of Our National Parks" because he worked really hard to protect beautiful places for everyone to enjoy. He showed us that even if you are not a president or a mayor, you can still do important things to help the Earth.

ASK Students

Who is "The Father of Our National Parks?"

TELL Students

Yes, John Muir! John Muir loved nature and worked hard to protect it. He believed that every living thing, big or small, is special because God created it. John Muir's love for wild places helped make important changes in America, showing us that when you care about something, you can make a difference.

Introduction

ASK Students

What are some ways that you can make a difference in our classroom? [Have students turn and discuss with a neighbor.]

TELL Students

That is right! By taking care of your things, respecting others, and helping your friends, you make a difference every day. Today, we are going to learn about the important changes John Muir helped make in America. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more!

WATCH 6

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon Ep. 34: National Parks







TELL Students @ P

John Muir was born a long time ago, in 1838, in a place called Dunbar in Scotland. Even when he was a little boy, he loved being outdoors. [Reference Young John Muir Image.] He used to go on exciting walks in the countryside with his grandpa. In 1849, John's family moved to Wisconsin. When John was not helping on the farm, he and his younger brother would go on adventures, exploring the fields and forests around their home. He enjoyed learning about the environment. An environment is everything that is around us, which includes both living and nonliving things such as soil, water, animals, and plants.

ASK Students

Do you like to explore? What are some things you like to do outside?

TELL Students

John Muir loved to explore the outdoors but he also loved reading. He was skilled at making things too. [Reference John Muir Image.] Once, he made a special bed that would make sure you got up early by tipping you out of it! In 1860, he went to the University of Wisconsin because he wanted to learn more about plants, animals, and rocks. But John felt that nature was the best place to learn, so he left school in 1863 to learn through exploration.

ASK Students

How did reading help John Muir improve his exploring skills?

TELL Students 🙉

That is right! Reading helps everyone learn more and become better at what they do. John went on a big adventure walking through different states and even Canada. He worked many different jobs to earn money. [Reference John Muir's Journey Image.] One day, while working in a shop, John got hurt and could not see for a whole month. When he got his eyesight back, he wanted to see every beautiful place he could. And that is just what he did!

ASK Students

How do you think John felt when he lost his eyesight? How do you think he felt when he regained his eyesight?

TELL Students

John decided to travel to Cuba, Panama, and then all the way to San Francisco in California. When he got there, he asked someone how to get away from the busy city. [Reference Busy City Image.] He wanted to find somewhere wild to explore. That person asked him, "Where do you want to go?" And John said, "Anywhere that is wild." So, he walked through valleys until he found a beautiful place called Yosemite in the mountains of California. [Reference Yosemite Image.] He thought it was the most beautiful place with bright, shining mountains. John Muir loved it so much he called it his home and said it was like a place full of light.

ASK Students

How would you describe our town? How would you describe your environment?

TELL Students 🚳

In November 1869, John Muir made a special house for himself next to Yosemite Creek. He helped a hotel owner by making a sawmill, leading guests on fun walks, and chopping down trees for the hotel to use. His cozy house was made of pine and cedar woods. Imagine a house where a little creek flows right under the floor and plants grow inside! John even had a special writing desk with ferns growing around it and slept on soft cedar branches with sheepskin blankets.

[Reference Muir Home Image.]

ASK Students

Do you have plants in your home? Do we have plants in our classroom?

TELL Students @ P

Please read the following passage to learn some interesting things about John Muir. John also built a special study spot high up in the sawmill that he could only get to by climbing a ladder. He called it his "hang-nest." In Yosemite, John felt very happy and peaceful. He wrote to his friend that it was like feasting in a beautiful mountain house made by God. John did not just enjoy the beauty of Yosemite; he learned a lot from it too. He collected plants, wrote about them in his journals, and studied the rocks, plants, and animals he found.

TELL Students (continued)

John had some exciting adventures in Yosemite, like getting wet from waterfalls, exploring glaciers with a rope, and even sliding down a canyon with an avalanche! An **avalanche** is a large amount of snow that quickly moves down a slope.

ASK Students

What did John do to learn about nature?

TELL Students

John Muir wrote a lot of stories and books—more than 300 stories and 10 books! He wrote about all the wonderful things he saw and did in nature. He wanted everyone, from presidents to kids who love adventures, to know how peaceful and happy nature can make us feel.

ASK Students

How do you feel when you are outside playing?

TELL Students 🙉

Please read the following passage to learn more about John Muir.

John Muir said that many people who were very busy and tired were starting to see how important it was to go to the mountains because it felt like going home. He thought that wild places were not just useful for things like wood or water but were important for making us feel alive and happy. In our Star Spangled Adventures episode, you learned about President Theodore Roosevelt. He read John Muir's book and thought it was really important. Even though some people told him that America's wild places were too big to ever run out, Roosevelt started to worry about conserving America's natural resources. What would happen if all the trees were cut down and if we used up all our oil and coal? So, in 1903, he wrote a letter to John Muir saying he wanted to go camping with him in Yosemite to learn more about nature.

ASK Students

How would you feel if the President of the United States wanted to go camping with you? Have you ever been camping?

TELL Students

John Muir was excited to show the president the beauty and importance of nature. They went on a special camping trip where they slept under giant trees and experienced a lot of snow. John told President Roosevelt about the big trees, animals, and why we need to preserve places like Yosemite. Preserve means to keep safe from harm or to protect. [Reference Muir and Roosevelt Camping Image.] After their talks, President Roosevelt worked hard to protect a lot of nature in America. He helped save Yosemite Valley and the big trees there by making a new law. He said, "Yosemite and the giant trees are some of the most beautiful things in the world, and we need to make sure they are kept safe forever." Today, we call this conservation. Conservation means protecting our environment and the wildlife that lives in it.

ASK Students

What did President Roosevelt do to preserve Yosemite? What is conservation? Let's watch a Learn

More with Liberty video to learn more!

WATCH 6

Learn More with Liberty: <u>Yosemite's Giants:</u>
<u>Secrets of the Sequoias and Beyond</u>

TELL Students

Because of their camping trip and their talks, President Roosevelt helped protect a lot of land for parks and forests so that everyone, even kids and grandkids in the future, could enjoy them. He made new parks, saved land, and made sure there were places for birds and animals to live safely. So, next time you visit a park or see a big tree, remember to think of John Muir and President Roosevelt. They worked very hard so we could all enjoy the beautiful nature around us.

ASK Students

What are some ways that you can take care of the beautiful Earth we live on?

TELL Students @ P

That is right! By taking care of your things, putting your trash in trash cans, recycling, and planting flowers, you can help take care of the Earth that God created. Taking care of the things God has given to you is called **stewardship**. It means taking care of Earth and everything on it—like the trees, animals, oceans, and even the air we breathe. **[Reference People Caring for Earth Image.]** We have the job of protecting our world so it stays beautiful and healthy. Being a good steward means recycling, saving water by turning off the tap, and being kind to all living things. When we act as stewards, we help make sure our planet is a wonderful place to live, not just for us, but for all creatures and for kids in the future too!

Yosemite and Muir Trivia Game

Instructions: Divide the class into small teams. Ask each question, allowing teams to discuss and write down their answer within a set time limit. Review the answers after each question or at the end of the game, awarding points for each correct response. The team with the most points wins!

Questions

- 1. Who is known as the "Father of the National Parks"?
 - A) Theodore Roosevelt
 - B) John Muir
 - C) Abraham Lincoln
 - D) Benjamin Franklin

Correct Answer: B) John Muir

- 2. What significant natural feature is Yosemite National Park famous for?
 - A) The largest coral reef
 - B) The tallest sand dunes
 - C) Giant sequoias
 - D) The longest river

Correct Answer: C) Giant sequoias

- 3. John Muir helped establish Yosemite National Park in which year?
 - A) 1776
 - B) 1872
 - C) 1890
 - D) 1903

Correct Answer: C) 1890

- 4. Which president did John Muir go camping with in Yosemite to discuss conservation?
 - A) George Washington
 - B) Abraham Lincoln
 - C) Theodore Roosevelt
 - D) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Correct Answer: C) Theodore Roosevelt



Yosemite and Muir Trivia Game

- 5. What is one of the waterfalls in Yosemite National Park?
 - A) Niagara Falls
 - B) Victoria Falls
 - C) Yosemite Falls
 - D) Angel Falls

Correct Answer: C) Yosemite Falls

- 6. John Muir was originally from which country?
 - A) United States
 - B) Scotland
 - C) Canada
 - D) Ireland

Correct Answer: B) Scotland

- 7. Which animal is often seen in Yosemite National Park?
 - A) Polar bears
 - B) Black bears
 - C) Kangaroos
 - D) Penguins

Correct Answer: B) Black bears

- 8. What did John Muir famously say about mountains?
 - A) "Mountains are earth's undecaying monuments."
 - B) "The mountains are calling, and I must go."
 - C) "All mountains are silent."
 - D) "Mountains rise and fall but never lose their majesty."

Correct Answer: B) "The mountains are calling, and I must go."



Yosemite and Muir Trivia Game

- 9. Yosemite National Park is located in which U.S. state?
 - A) Colorado
 - B) Montana
 - C) California
 - D) Nevada

Correct Answer: C) California

- 10. Why did John Muir advocate for national parks?
 - A) To promote tourism
 - B) To protect natural areas from development
 - C) To create places for sports
 - D) To find gold

Correct Answer: B) To protect natural areas from development

Conclusion: After the game, discuss the importance of each question and its relevance to understanding Yosemite National Park, John Muir's legacy, and the broader concept of conservation. This interactive trivia game not only educates students about environmental stewardship but also encourages teamwork and critical thinking.



Conservation and Our Country

NAME:	DATE:

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Remember, this worksheet is not just about finding the right answers but also thinking about how we can take care of our beautiful planet and the United States.

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

- 1. What is conservation?
 - A) Using resources as quickly as possible
 - B) Protecting and preserving natural resources
 - C) Keeping animals in zoos
 - D) Building more cities
- 2. Who is known as the "Father of the National Parks" for his conservation efforts?
 - A) George Washington
 - B) John Muir
 - C) Theodore Roosevelt
 - D) Benjamin Franklin
- 3. Which of the following is a benefit of planting trees?
 - A) Trees can make the air dirtier.
 - B) Trees provide homes for wildlife.
 - C) Trees use up a lot of water.
 - D) Trees block sunlight from reaching the ground.
- 4. What does it mean to be a good steward of the environment?
 - A) To use natural resources wisely
 - B) To ignore problems in the environment
 - C) To leave trash in public parks
 - D) To cut down more trees



Conservation and Our Country

5. Which national park is known for its giant sequoias and was influenced by John Muir?

A) Yellowstone National Park

B) Yosemite National Park
C) Grand Canyon National Park
D) Everglades National Park
Part 2: True or False
Write "T" if the statement is true and "F" if the statement is false.
1. Conservation helps to ensure that future generations can enjoy the planet.
2. Only adults can participate in activities that help the environment.
3. Using both sides of a paper before recycling it is a way to conserve resources
4. All trash is harmful to the environment and cannot be reused or recycled.
5. National parks are important for protecting natural landscapes and wildlife.
Part 3: Short Answer
Answer the following questions in a few sentences.
1. Name one simple action you can take to help conserve water at home or school.



Conservation and Our Country

2. Why is it important to protect wildlife	e and their habitats?
3. What is one thing you learned about	John Muir and his contributions to conservation?
Reflection: Draw a picture below of your favorite or sentence about why it's special to you.	utdoor place that you think should be protected and write a

Student Text

Please read the following paragraphs to learn more.

John also built a special study spot high up in the sawmill that he could only get to by climbing a ladder. He called it his "hang-nest." In Yosemite, John felt very happy and peaceful. He wrote to his friend that it was like feasting in a beautiful mountain house made by God. John did not just enjoy the beauty of Yosemite; he learned a lot from it too. He collected plants, wrote about them in his journals, and studied the rocks, plants, and animals he found. John had some exciting adventures in Yosemite, like getting wet from waterfalls, exploring glaciers with a rope, and even sliding down a canyon with an avalanche! An **avalanche** is a large amount of snow that quickly moves down a slope.

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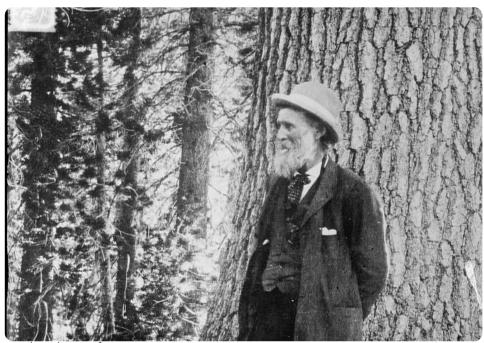




Resources

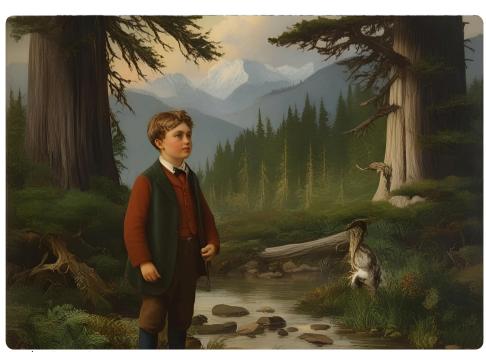
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John Muir



Credit: Library of Congress.

Young John Muir



Credit: Canva Pro.

John Muir's Journey



Credit: JMT Wilderness Conservatory.

Busy City



Credit: Canva Pro.

Yosemite



Credit: Canva Pro

Muir Home



Credit: National Park Service

Hang-Nest



Credit: Canva Pro.

People Enjoying the Outdoors



Credit: Canva Pro

Muir and Roosevelt Camping



Credit: National Park Service.

People Caring for Earth



Credit: Canva Pro

Notes
