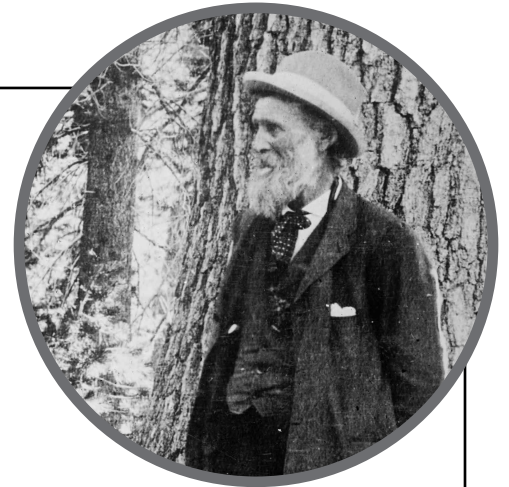


Name: _____

John Muir: The Conservationist on the Quarter



By Liana Mahoney

Look carefully at the back of a California state quarter. A bearded man with a walking stick is pictured there. A bird called a California condor is flying overhead. Who is this man, and why is he so important that he is featured on the back of a coin?

The man on this quarter is John Muir. Even as a child, Muir loved watching nature. As a young man, he spent much of his life exploring the beauty of the wilderness. He walked more than a thousand miles across the country, through fields and woods. John Muir wrote about the places he visited, describing their beauty:

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

Muir also wrote about problems. In order to create more farmland for sheep and cattle to graze, many trees were being cut down. This upset Muir, because he knew that trees were important to forests and to the animals that lived in them. Muir believed that nature should be conserved instead of being changed by human beings. He wrote articles in magazines and newspapers to spread the word about conserving forests. Soon, others began to listen.

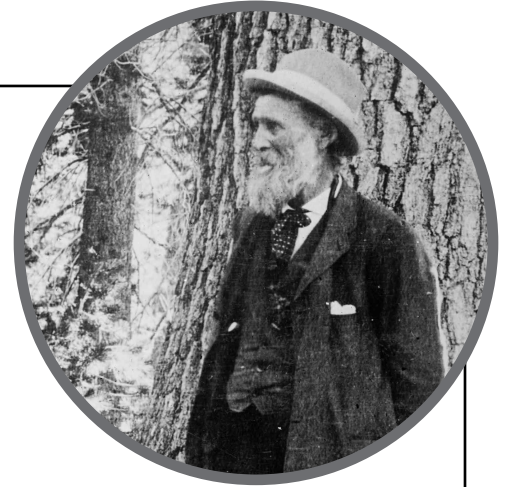
Muir wrote letters to important people, such as President Theodore Roosevelt. The president admired Muir's love for nature. When Roosevelt came to visit Muir in California, Muir convinced the president to go camping with him for three nights under the trees so they could talk about conservation. Later, President Roosevelt set aside 148 million acres of land for national forests and established five national parks. National parks are large areas of land that are protected from development. This means that people cannot build homes or businesses there. One of these parks is Yosemite National Park, the area that is featured on the back of the California quarter.



Though it has been over one hundred years since John Muir died, people continue his work today. His work as a conservationist helped us to see the beauty of our natural world. John Muir made us understand the importance of protecting our earth and our resources – then, now, and for the future.

Name: _____

John Muir: The Conservationist on the Quarter



By Liana Mahoney

1. When John Muir walked across the country, what did he notice that bothered him?

2. Into which genre could this article be categorized?

- a. historical fiction b. science fiction
c. tall tale d. biography

3. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

- a. to entertain us with a story about a mountain man
b. to give information about how to conserve the environment
c. to give information about an important person in history
d. to persuade readers to become active conservationists

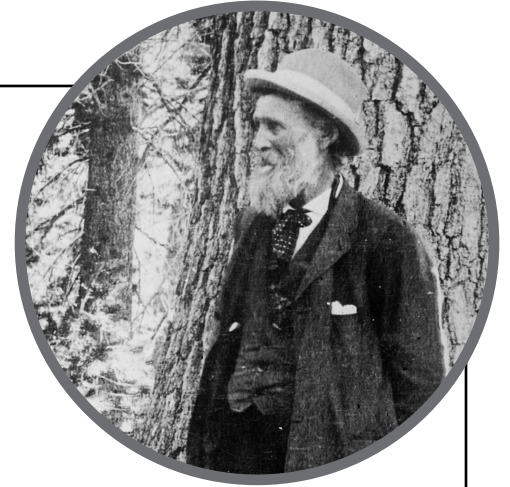
4. Why did President Theodore Roosevelt agree to go camping with John Muir?

5. What did President Roosevelt do after he went camping with John Muir?

Challenge: John Muir wrote about the places he visited and described their beauty. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about the most beautiful place you've visited.

ANSWER KEY

John Muir: The Conservationist on the Quarter



By Liana Mahoney

1. When John Muir walked across the country, what did he notice that bothered him?

John Muir noticed that trees were being cut down in order to create more farmland.

2. Into which genre could this article be categorized?

a. historical fiction
c. tall tale

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4. Why did President Theodore Roosevelt agree to go camping with John Muir?

Roosevelt went camping with John Muir because he admired Muir's love for nature.

5. What did President Roosevelt do after he went camping with John Muir?

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Challenge: John Muir wrote about the places he visited and described their beauty. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about the most beautiful place you've visited.