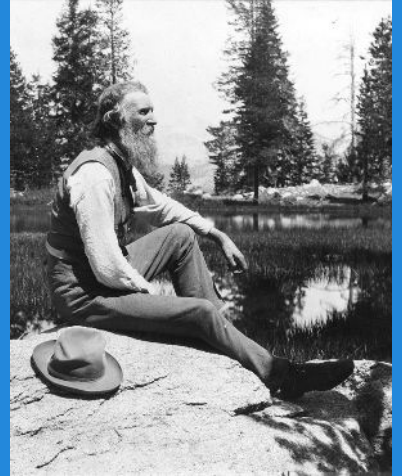
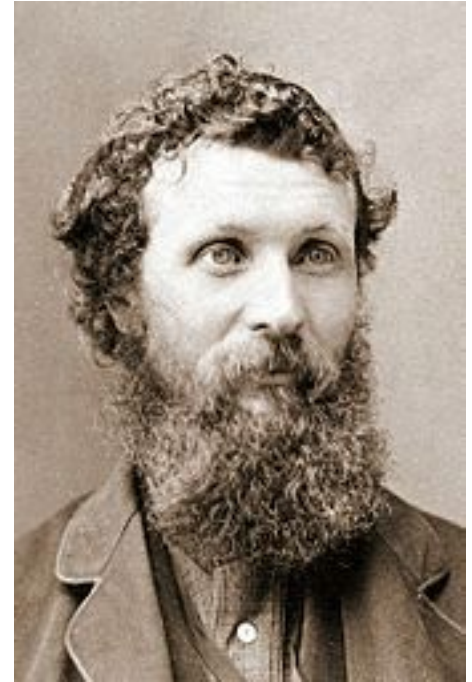
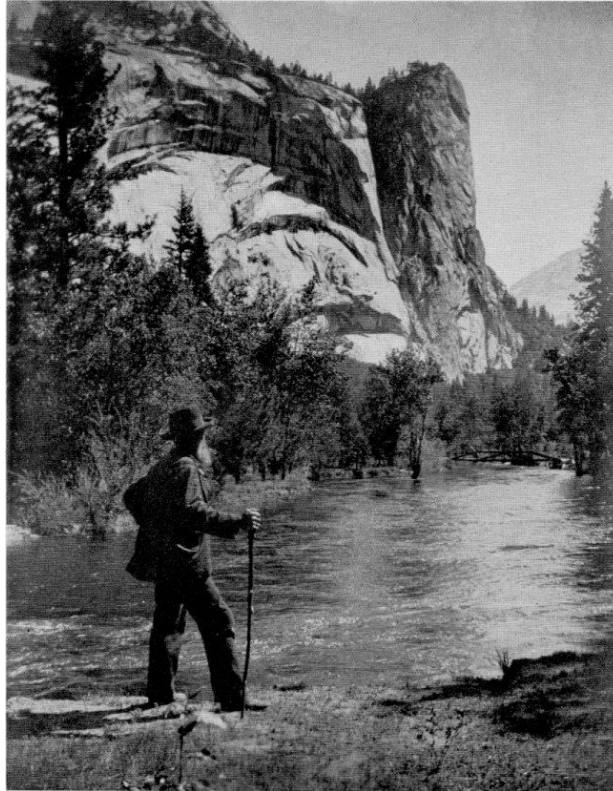


# My Eco Hero: John Muir

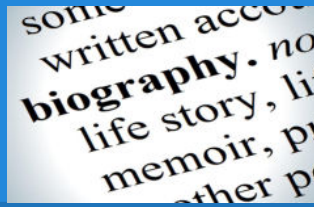


Mahi Ganatra, Username: mahiganatra,  
[mahi.ganatra@gmail.com](mailto:mahi.ganatra@gmail.com), Poolesville High  
School

# John Muir



# Muir's Story



California's John Muir was America's most influential naturalist and conservationist. As a writer, he taught the importance of experiencing and protecting nature. Muir took his beliefs to Teddy Roosevelt, inspiring the President's environmental conservation programs, as well as his establishment of National Parks within the US, such as Yosemite. In 1892, Muir founded the Sierra Club, established to "make the mountains glad". The Sierra Club, to this day, is highly active, conducting outings and raising awareness about pressing environmental issues.

When Muir was a boy, his father directed him to chisel through a 90-foot well with fine-grained sandstone. This task was unbearably painstaking but Muir with his unrelenting will, completed the task. This hard labored task gave him the strength he would need for his later adventures.

I was drawn to Muir due to his pure love of nature. The National Parks are places I value very much, with all their natural beauty. If it weren't for Muir, these parks would have been left unprotected and may not have existed today.



# What Resonated With Me

What resonated with me most about Muir's story is the power of one passionate, motivated, and courageous person. As best explained by Yvon Chouinard, "If you think about all the gains our society has made, from independence to now, it wasn't government. It was activism. People think, 'Oh, Teddy Roosevelt established Yosemite National Park, what a great president.' BS. It was John Muir who invited Roosevelt out and then convinced him to ditch his security and go camping. It was Muir, an activist, a single person". Muir's pure devotion to our planet drove him to all his achievements which are affecting people decades later.

John Muir with Teddy  
Roosevelt



# If I Were To Meet Muir

If I were to meet Muir, I would share with him how his indirect establishment of National Parks has impacted me. A couple summers ago, I visited Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The views were unbeatable, and the fun I had climbing the mountains was refreshing. This is as Muir once said, "Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."



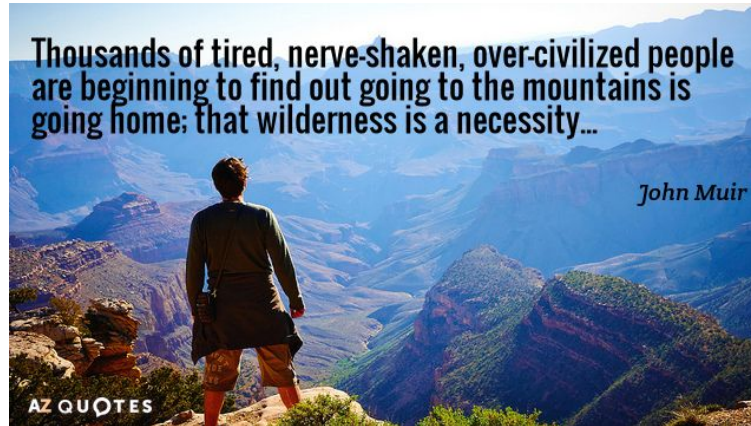
Pictures from my trip!





# 3 Questions I Would Ask Muir

- 1) What is your favorite National Park?
- 2) Who inspired you to explore nature, and within it, explore yourself?
- 3) What were you doing when you weren't on outdoor adventures?



# Email!

Although Muir unfortunately passed away in 1914, I was able to find the email of the John Muir Education Committee Chair, Harold Wood.

