

Catching the Spirit of Muir as a Youth

John Muir, 100 years of legacy, and what this means to young people



"When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures...With red blooded playmates, wild as myself, I loved to wander in the fields to hear the birds sing, and along the shore to gaze and wonder at the shells and the seaweeds, eels and crabs in the pools when the tide was low; and best of all to watch the waves in awful storms thundering on the black headlands and craggy ruins of old Dunbar Castle."



You are invited to explore this theme - as a group, class, family or individual

You can:

- Make a short film (NB keep your clips short and punchy!)
- Create a photo collage
- Produce a sound diary

Combine wild places/outdoor settings with talking heads of young people.
How might they interpret the spirit of Muir as a boy/youth?

You might:

- Ask for personal perspectives
- Make short re-enactments – e.g. camping with Roosevelt, or up a tree in a hurricane
- Use beards to impersonate Muir
- Use Mission:Explore John Muir
- Use John Muir – Earth, Planet, Universe graphic novel
- Use activities from www.discoverjohnmuir.com
- Make links with National Parks
- Read out Muir quotes (ask us if you'd like some)
- Ask direct questions:
 - 'What does Muir mean to you?'
 - 'Why was John Muir important?'
 - 'What do you think was important to Muir as a boy?'
 - 'Why is it important to look after wild places?'
 - 'What would John Muir say if he was on Twitter?'
 - 'Is your National Park special to you?'
 - 'If John Muir came back now, what would he say to politicians?'
 - 'What is it about wild places that you enjoy and value?'

Share your results with us, and on www.discoverjohnmuir.com

A [John Muir Resource Guide](#) is available on the Resources page at johnmuiraward.org.