

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.



Preview

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wrote articles in magazines and newspapers to spread the word about conserving forests. Soon, others began to listen.

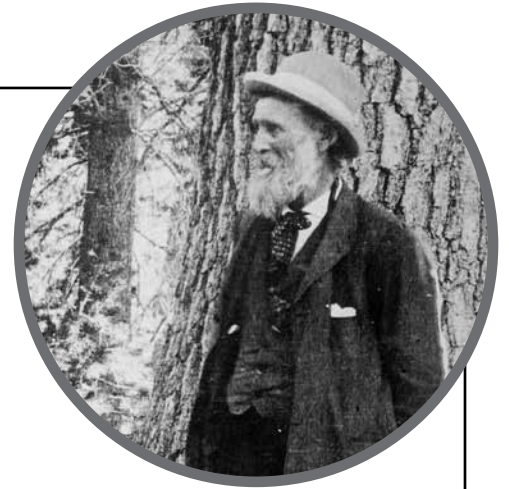
Muir wrote letters to important people, such as President Theodore Roosevelt. The president admired Muir's love for nature. When Roosevelt came to visit Muir in California, Muir convinced the president to go camping with him for three nights under the trees so they could talk about conservation. Later, 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.

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



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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

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