

John Muir Study Guide
Science Lesson Plan
Grade Three
John Muir on Diverse Environments

John Muir was an explorer all of his life, and he traveled to many places around the world. In each place he learned about the plants and animals that live in each region. As a boy growing up on a Wisconsin farm he came to know the prairie and grassland ecosystem with its beautiful wildflowers and singing birds. As a young man he hiked through the swamps and wetlands of Florida where he saw alligators and large numbers of colorful butterflies. In desert regions of Arizona and California he explored the rocky canyons where he found several kinds of cactus and yucca plants and saw bighorn sheep. During his many trips to Alaska he studied the mosses and stunted plants of the partly frozen tundra regions and also saw eagles, grizzly bears, and arctic foxes. He visited many forest ecosystems around the world but his favorite was the Giant Sequoia forests of California, where the largest trees in the world can be found. Everywhere he traveled he carried a nature journal with him, making notes and drawing pictures of the plants and animals he saw on his journeys. Later in his life he wrote several books describing the many things that he had seen and learned about during his travels.