

# Fifth Grade

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## John Muir in the United States

- Unit Concept:** *John Muir, an immigrant to the United States, spoke out about his experiences and his visions for conservation.*
- Objective:** In several 45- to 50-minute sessions, students review information about events in John Muir's life, read some of his quotes, compare their lives to his, and create their own essay or speech.
- Preparation:**
1. Make a copy of the page Celebrating Our Lives for each student. Make six copies of the John Muir Power Quotes and cut them apart to distribute one or two quotes to each student.
- Procedure:**
2. Ask the students if they know why John Muir was a famous author and record their responses. Ask a few volunteers to read the John Muir Power Quotes. Discuss and record what the students like about John Muir's writing.
  3. Ask each student to choose one Power Quote and complete the page, Celebrating Our Lives.
  4. Ask students to think about a natural place they have been in and to write about it. They might include a description of the place, the plant life, animal life, and a persuasive argument for action to conserve their natural place.
  5. Use writing techniques to improve essays or speeches and invite the students to present their speeches to the class.
- Extensions:**
6. Hold a contest for the most persuasive speech in John Muir's style. Invite the winner(s) to address the student body and the school board on or near John Muir Day.
  7. Write and submit letters on neighborhood conservation issues to the local newspaper.
  8. Get involved in local efforts to protect and conserve natural areas in the community.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

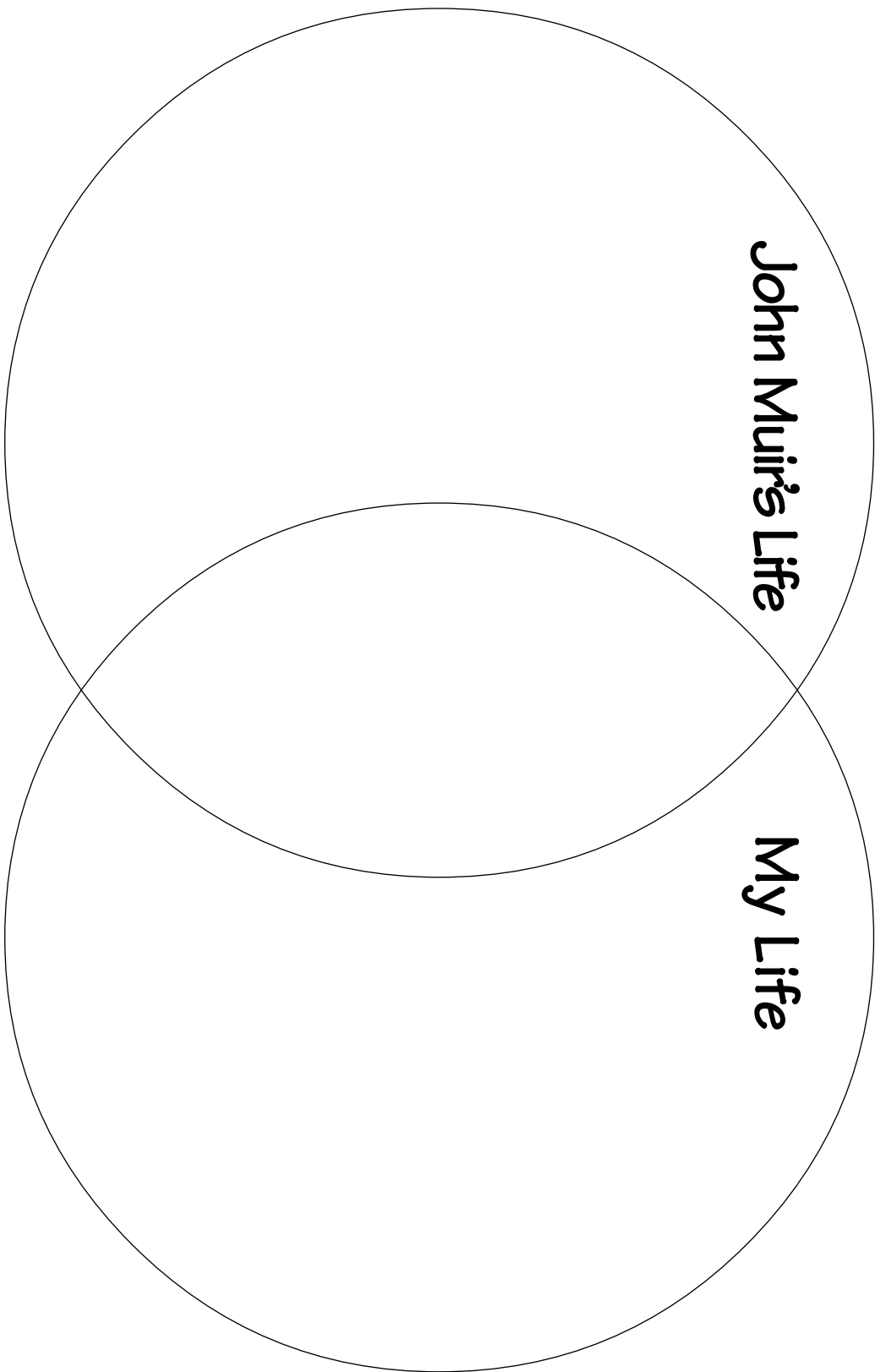
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# Celebrating Our Lives

John Muir Power Quote:

**John Muir's Life**

**My Life**



# John Muir Power Quotes

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.

*John Muir*

There is not a "fragment" in all nature, for every relative fragment of one thing is a full harmonious unit in itself.

*John Muir*

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.

*John Muir*

The grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on seas and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls.

*John Muir*

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.

*John Muir*

A day in the mountains is worth a mountain of books.

*John Muir*

None of Nature's landscapes are ugly so long as they are wild.

*John Muir*

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.

*John Muir*

I know that our bodies were made to thrive only in pure air, and the scenes in which pure air is found.

*John Muir*

When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with all other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty.

*John Muir*

The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.

*John Muir*