

Sixth Grade

John Muir—Around the World in 76 Years

Unit Concept: *John Muir traveled around the world to compare and contrast natural phenomena and to speak out about preserving ecosystems.*

Objective: Create timelines of John Muir’s life while playing a game based on John Muir’s travels.

Preparation:

1. Copy one John Muir Day Game board (on heavy card stock, if possible) for every two or three students. Copy one set of Geography Cards for each student. Put one penny and two or three small pebbles in a ziplock bag for each group.
2. Have scissors, construction paper, adding machine tape and gluesticks available.

Procedure:

3. Create a class list of ideas about where in the world students think John Muir traveled and the different kinds of natural phenomena they think he saw, such as landforms, plant life, and wildlife. Add to the list as students’ learning continues.
4. Distribute John Muir Geography Cards for students to cut out.
5. Students play in groups of two or three. Students in each group shuffle their Geography Cards with the other players’ cards to make one large stack on their board.
6. Spin or flip the penny to see who goes first (call heads or tails), then spin or flip to move (heads=1, tails=2). Follow the directions on each space.
7. Add to the class list of where Muir’s travels led him. Glue Geography Cards in sequence on construction paper or adding machine tape to create a timeline.

Extensions:

8. Contact local conservation resource persons in your area to visit your class as speakers and career models. Do a class project by joining in an existing effort, such as restoring a stream, raising salmon, or protecting a park.

John Muir Day Game

Around the World in 76 Years!

Begin

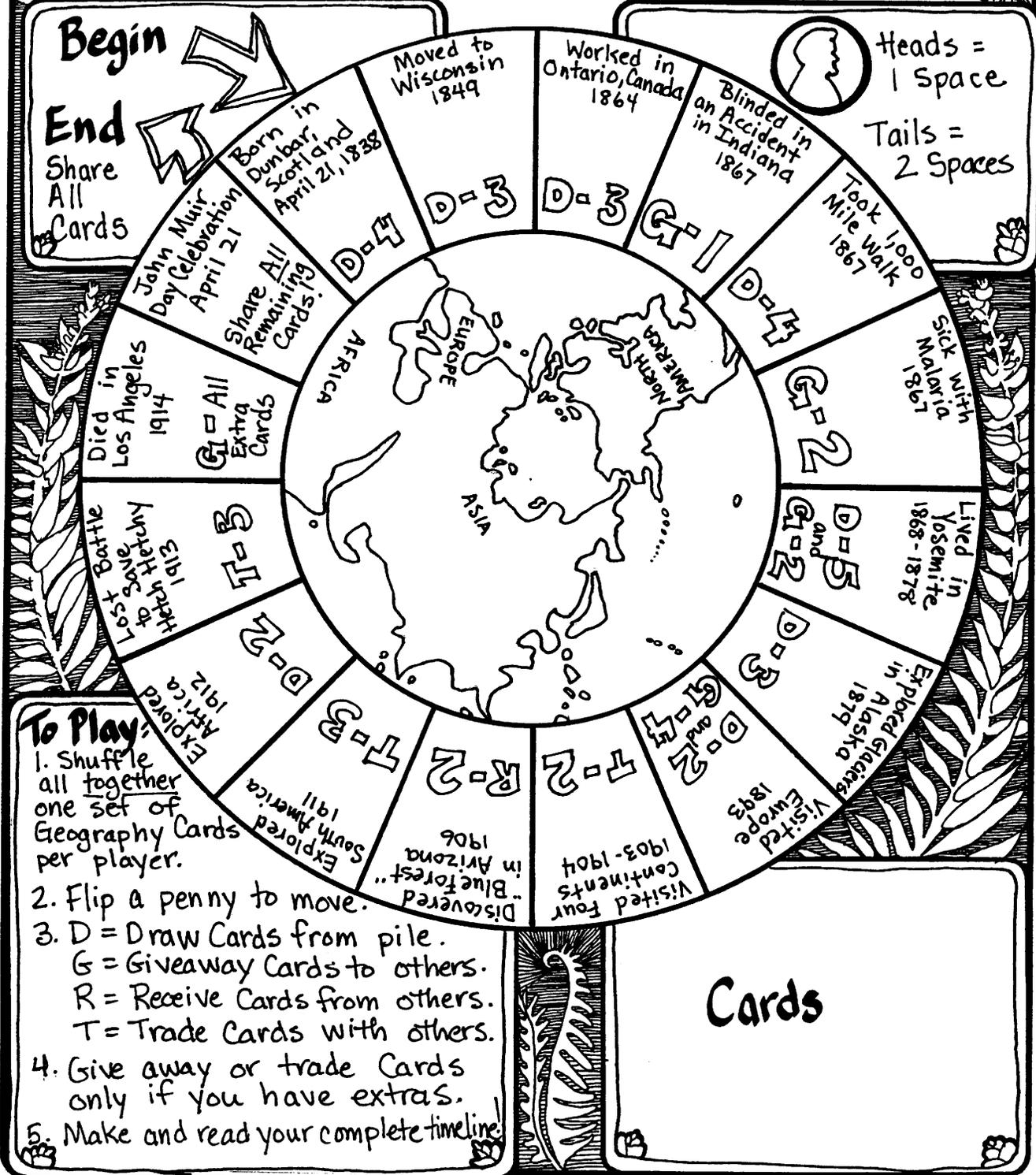
End

Share All Cards



Heads = 1 Space

Tails = 2 Spaces



To Play:

1. Shuffle all together one set of Geography Cards per player.
2. Flip a penny to move.
3. D = Draw Cards from pile.
G = Giveaway Cards to others.
R = Receive Cards from others.
T = Trade Cards with others.
4. Give away or trade Cards only if you have extras.
5. Make and read your complete timeline!

Cards

B. Keithcart 1995

John Muir Geography Cards

<p style="text-align: center;">1838—Dunbar, Scotland</p> <p>John Muir was born April 21, 1838, in this small seaside village. As a boy, Muir ran through the highlands, climbed the ruins of ancient castle walls, and listened to the waves’ “grand sounds” as he explored the rocky coast life.</p> <p>Today, the shoreline near Dunbar is named the John Muir Country Park and residents are establishing the “John Muir Conservation Centre.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1879—Alaska</p> <p>In 1879, Muir took his first of five trips to Alaska. The next year, he discovered what was later named the “Muir Glacier” in Glacier Bay.</p> <p>Today, Glacier Bay National Park consists of eight million acres of fiords, ice-capped mountains, and glaciers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1849—Wisconsin, U.S.A.</p> <p>In 1849, while many joined the California Gold Rush, John Muir’s father, Daniel, moved his family to the backwoods of Wisconsin to establish a farm.</p> <p>Today, the first Wisconsin homesite of John Muir at Fountain Lake Farm is a National Historic Landmark and a county park.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1893—New York and Massachusetts</p> <p>Muir visited many of New York’s publishers and writers. He visited the homes and gravesites of Emerson and Thoreau in Concord, Massachusetts, and took a walk at Walden Pond, the setting of Henry David Thoreau’s book, <i>Walden</i>.</p> <p>Today, New York still has great influence in the publishing industry, which can affect people’s views about nature and conservation. In Concord, Massachusetts, conservationists advocate greater protection for Walden Pond and the surrounding woods.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1864—Province of Ontario, Canada</p> <p>After attending the University of Wisconsin, Muir went “botanizing” in the region north of the Great Lakes, finding various jobs in machine shops and factories.</p> <p>Today, the Province of Ontario is the second largest province in Canada, with many national parks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1893—Europe</p> <p>John Muir began and ended this trip in Dunbar, Scotland. Muir enjoyed the great glacial fiords of Norway, south of Trondheim. He also visited England. Muir toured Switzerland and saw the Matterhorn and the Gorner Glacier. He crossed the mountains to northern Italy, then visited the Lakes of Killarney in Ireland. He returned to Scotland and left from his hometown of Dunbar.</p> <p>Many of these European places today are national parks, including the Lake District of England, Killarney, and parts of the Alps.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1867—1,000-Mile Walk from Kentucky to Florida</p> <p>Just after the Civil War, Muir took a 1,000-mile walk to the Gulf of Mexico. He walked from Louisville, Kentucky, through Tennessee southward to the Appalachian Mountains. He went across Georgia from Athens to Augusta to Savannah. He took a boat along offshore islands to northeast Florida, then walked through Gainesville to Cedar Keys.</p> <p>The story of this exciting trip is written in Muir’s book, <i>A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf</i>. Modern day photographs of the natural places Muir visited are recorded in John Earl’s book, <i>John Muir’s Longest Walk</i>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1903–1904—World Tour Card #1: England, France, and Germany</p> <p>John Muir took this trip with the Sargent family of New York. Muir saw so many museums and art galleries in London, Paris, and Berlin that he declared he had seen “enough for a life-time.”</p> <p>These same museums and art galleries attract visitors from around the world. Art can provide a valuable perspective for the study of the natural world.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1868 - Yosemite</p> <p>When Muir first arrived in Yosemite Valley, he fell in love with the place, and lived there for over ten years, exploring the surrounding mountains, writing, drawing, and making observations.</p> <p>Today, Yosemite is one of our most visited national parks, with four million visitors every year!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1903-1904 - World Tour Card #2: Russia</p> <p>John Muir became weary of more tours to museums, art galleries, old churches, and palaces. He enjoyed the forests, the Caucasus Mountains, and the Black Sea. He took the train across Siberia, through the wheat fields of the Volga and then vast forests to Vladivostok.</p>

John Muir Geography Cards

<p style="text-align: center;">1903–1904 —World Tour Card #3: China</p> <p>John Muir entered China three different times during his world tour: into Manchuria from Vladivostok, and later at Shanghai and Canton. However, Muir became ill, which prevented him from seeing much. He was anxious to depart for the Himalaya Mountains of India.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1903–1904 —World Tour Card #8: Japan and Hawaii</p> <p>After brief stops in Timor, Indonesia; the Philippines; and Canton, China, John Muir boarded the steamship <i>Siberia</i> of the Pacific Steamship Line to return home. He enjoyed the gardens of Shinto shrines near Nagasaki, and from Yokohama he could see the world-famous volcano Mt. Fujiyama.</p> <p>Muir stopped in Hawaii on his return trip, as millions do today, enjoying the lush tropical vegetation and views of scenic beauty such as Diamond Head near Honolulu.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1903–1904 — World Tour Card #4: India</p> <p>Arriving in Calcutta, Muir traveled first to Darjeeling, where he enjoyed magnificent sunrise views from Tiger Hill of the Himalayas, the tallest mountains in the world. Muir also traveled to Shimla, in northern India, to see the Indian cedar forests and more grand views of the Himalayas.</p> <p>Today, people from all over the world take treks through the Himalayas.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1906—Arizona</p> <p>While staying in northern Arizona with his daughter to benefit her health, John Muir explored the petrified forest region and discovered the “Blue Forest” of petrified wood. He later wrote to President Theodore Roosevelt asking him to protect it.</p> <p>Today, Petrified Forest National Park preserves forests which were alive in the Triassic Period, about 225 million years ago. It allows visitors to see the beautiful petrified wood, while prohibiting its destruction or collection.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1903–1904—World Tour Card #5: Egypt</p> <p>Taking a steamship from Bombay, India, Muir went to Cairo, Egypt, and saw the Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza. After a steamer trip up the Nile River to Assiout and Assuan, he returned to Cairo.</p> <p>Today, visitors from all over the world go sightseeing in Egypt. The Nile River is the subject of on-going controversy over its use.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1911—South America</p> <p>Muir explored the Amazon River basin in Brazil, including the city of Manaus and the Rio Negro. In southern Brazil, he sailed on the Iguassu River into the heart of the Araucaria forests. In Buenos Aires, Argentina, many government officials, scientists, and reporters wanted to interview him, and he was surprised that he was famous there. From Santiago, Chile, Muir traveled 500 miles to Victoria, then inland to the Andes Mountains, where he found forests of the monkey-puzzle tree. In Montevideo, Uruguay, he was asked to speak to a small group about American forests, and as usual, a large crowd turned out to hear him speak about forest conservation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1903–1904—World Tour Card #6: Australia</p> <p>John Muir visited zoological and botanical gardens and parks in Fremantle, Melbourne, and Sydney. He traveled inland to see the eucalyptus forests of the Great Dividing Range and took the train from Sydney to Mt. Victoria in the Blue Mountains to see the Jenolan Caves. He went to Queensland to see the Hoop Pine and saw the Great Barrier Reef from his ship.</p> <p>The Narbethong Special Purposes Reserve preserves some of the beech trees, eucalyptus, and tree ferns that Muir saw on his trip.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1912—Africa</p> <p>John Muir traveled by ship from South America to Cape Town, South Africa. He visited Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River and wanted to find baobab trees, which can live to 1,000 years. Although no one at his hotel knew where to find baobabs, a little barefooted Zimbabwe boy took Muir to a large grove of baobabs near the head of Victoria Falls. Muir took a steamer along the eastern coast to Mombasa, Kenya, where he made a trip inland to the source of the Nile River. He traveled to Lake Victoria where he saw the lake and nearby Ripon Falls. Muir returned to America across the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1903–1904—World Tour Card #7: New Zealand</p> <p>Arriving in Auckland on the north island, John Muir visited the Rotorua region of forests, hot springs, and geysers. Traveling southward, he was impressed by the volcanic peaks of Mounts Tongariro, Ngauruhoe, and Ruapehu. On the South Island, Muir visited Christchurch’s botanical gardens and Mt. Cook with Mueller Glacier at its foot.</p> <p>Today, Mt. Cook, New Zealand’s highest mountain, is one of several New Zealand National Parks, attracting visitors from around the world.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1914—Los Angeles, California</p> <p>After coming down with pneumonia in the California desert near Barstow while visiting his daughter, John Muir was taken to a hospital in Los Angeles. He had near his bedside the manuscript of his book, <i>Travels in Alaska</i>. John Muir died on Christmas Eve, 1914.</p> <p>Today, Los Angeles is one of the largest cities in the world, with many national parks and wilderness areas nearby. These areas were protected due to John Muir’s efforts and those of his followers in the Sierra Club. The newest national parks near Los Angeles are Death Valley and Joshua Trees, established as part of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. This Act also established the Mojave National Preserve and numerous wilderness areas in the California desert.</p>