

John Muir Study Guide
Science Lesson Plan
Grade Two
John Muir on Soil

In his book, *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*, John Muir tells about how his family left Scotland when he was eleven years old, and moved to a farm in Wisconsin. For four years he worked hard in the fields to grow wheat, corn, and potatoes. But it wasn't long before repeated plantings of the same crop caused the soil to wear out, and less wheat and fewer vegetables were produced in the same amount of farmland as before. Farmers later discovered that if they planted their fields with clover and then plowed it under once it had grown, the soil could be made fertile again as nutrients were added to the soil.

Many years later John Muir became the owner of his father-in-law's fruit ranch. He worked hard planting vines and young trees to earn enough money to provide for his family. He was so successful at his work that after 10 years he was able to sell part of his ranch so he would have time to travel and write about nature.

Source:

http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/writings/the_story_of_my_boyhood_and_youth/

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