

Meet John Muir: Walker, Writer, Teacher

APPLESEEDS

A Cobblestone Publication

Earth Day
Every Day

Happy Hills
and
Mechanical
Marvels

John Muir

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S INTERVIEWING A TREE! AND HERE I AM, AN ACTUAL WILD ANIMAL, SITTING RIGHT HERE! HEL-LO!

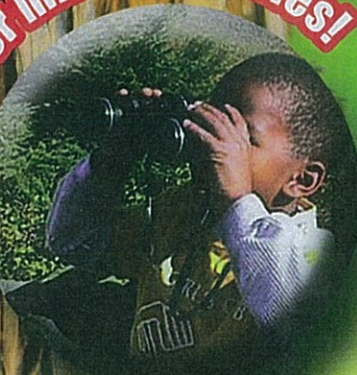


SO, I HEAR YOU MET MR. MUIR WHEN YOU WERE JUST A SAPLING! NOW THAT YOU ARE A MIGHTY TREE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO MR. MUIR TO THANK HIM FOR HIS ENDLESS LOVE AND PROTECTION? PLEASE SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE... PLEASE SPEAK UP, MR. TREE, OUR VIEWERS AT HOME ARE HAVING A HARD TIME HEARING YOU...



NATURE BOY

INSIDE: See for miles and miles!



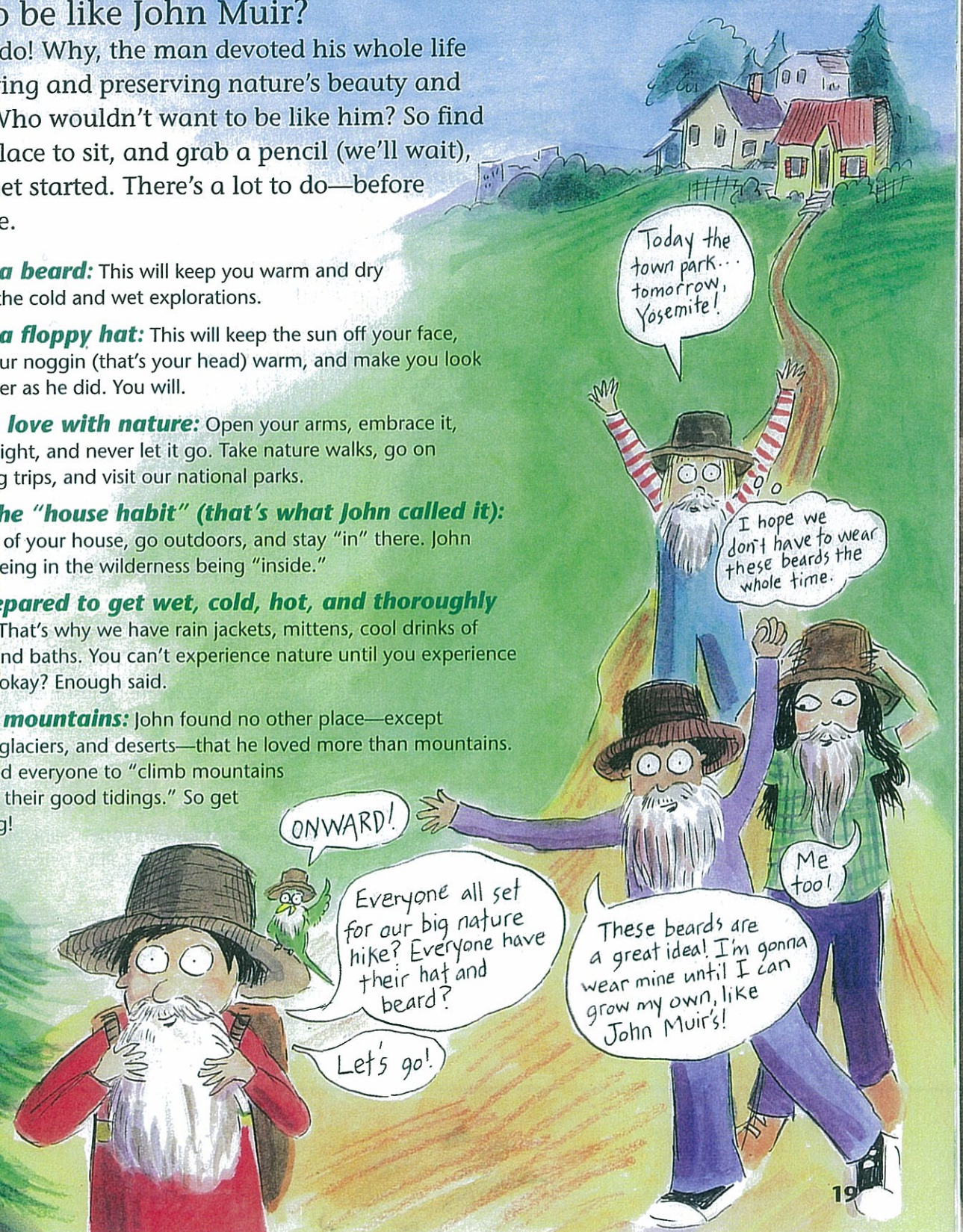
21 Ways to Be Like John Muir

by Patricia J. Murphy illustrated by Annette Cate

Want to be like John Muir?

Sure, you do! Why, the man devoted his whole life to conserving and preserving nature's beauty and majesty. Who wouldn't want to be like him? So find a comfy place to sit, and grab a pencil (we'll wait), and let's get started. There's a lot to do—before it's too late.

- 1. Grow a beard:** This will keep you warm and dry during the cold and wet explorations.
- 2. Wear a floppy hat:** This will keep the sun off your face, keep your noggin (that's your head) warm, and make you look as dapper as he did. You will.
- 3. Fall in love with nature:** Open your arms, embrace it, hold it tight, and never let it go. Take nature walks, go on camping trips, and visit our national parks.
- 4. Lose the "house habit" (that's what John called it):** Get out of your house, go outdoors, and stay "in" there. John called being in the wilderness being "inside."
- 5. Be prepared to get wet, cold, hot, and thoroughly dirty:** That's why we have rain jackets, mittens, cool drinks of water, and baths. You can't experience nature until you experience nature, okay? Enough said.
- 6. Climb mountains:** John found no other place—except forests, glaciers, and deserts—that he loved more than mountains. He urged everyone to "climb mountains and get their good tidings." So get climbing!





7. **Keep a journal (and pencil handy):** Write your thoughts, ideas, and feelings about nature, and make sketches of what you see, too. Afterward, make sure to share your favorite entries. (See #12 for more details.)
8. **Travel lightly:** John traveled with a small sack that held his journal, pencil, bread, three books (often the New Testament of the Bible, the poem "Paradise Lost," and a collection of Robert Burns's poems), a tin cup and dry tea, and a change of clothes. Anything more will just weigh you down.
9. **Leave behind only footprints:** Wherever you go, leave it the way you found it.
10. **Embrace Muir's philosophy:** "All life is interrelated!" That is, the trees, the forests, the deserts, the oceans, the animals—you and me. We are all connected.
11. **Use the word "glorious" a lot:** John couldn't find a better word to describe wilderness. If you find one, use it—and use it often.
12. **Write and speak on behalf of nature:** Use the words that you put together (see #7) to help conserve and preserve the beauty of our "glorious" (see #11) Earth. Then share them, publish them, and broadcast them to everyone who will listen! John wrote oodles of letters, books, and all sorts of speeches. And look what happened! You can do this, too.
13. **Let nature be your teacher:** Use nature as your classroom. (But still go to school!) John learned everything he needed to know from planet Earth. Nature has many lessons to teach us. All we have to do is pay attention.
14. **Have a dog as a sidekick:** Muir once hiked with a dog named Stickeen. (Read about Stickeen on pages 16–18.) Whom might you invite on your next exploration? Just make sure to tell someone where you are going, and never go exploring in the wilderness alone.
15. **Have friends at the top:** John was invited by President Theodore Roosevelt to join him on a camping trip in Yosemite. The result? More national parks for everyone! Think of all the people you know and/or could write or call to help our Earth. Make your guest list and start inviting!



16. **Say things like:** "Wildness is a necessity . . . !" (John said that) And do everything you can to make it true in your life and in the lives of others.
17. **Celebrate April 21!:** He celebrated this date every year for 76 years. It was his birthday, after all. Then, in 2004, the state of California proclaimed it "John Muir Day" in honor of Muir's life work. Who couldn't use one more holiday?
18. **Join a wilderness or nature club—or start one of your own:** In 1892, Muir founded the Sierra Club with a few others "to do something for wilderness and make the mountains glad." Today, it's the oldest, largest (over 1.3 million members and supporters), and strongest environmental organization in the United States. What will yours be like?
19. **Be a true citizen of Earth:** Muir signed some of his journals "John Muir, Earth, Planet, Universe." Starting today think of yourself as a citizen of Earth, too. What might that mean to you, and how might you live and act differently?
20. **Believe in every bone of your body that one person can make a difference:** Just remember John Muir.
21. **Now, put down your AppleSeeds**—and head outside! Lie on the ground or dance around! John Muir loved doing both and lived his life so you can have wonderful wide open space to do that. And, while you're at it, whisper a quiet "thank you" to the universe and to John! (Then come back and read some more. . . .) 🌸