



John Muir's Birthplace Fact Sheet

Number 1.1 - The Essential John Muir - for the young

Who was John Muir?

John was born in Dunbar in 1838. He went to school and played around the shore and countryside like all local boys. Just before his eleventh birthday he sailed to America and began a new life in Wisconsin. By the time he was an old man he was famous. He was an explorer, geologist, botanist, farmer, writer and family man. Many places that are still wild today have been saved because of John's work.

Where can I find out more about John Muir?

Books to read

- Muir, John, as retold by Donnell Rubay. Stickeen, John Muir and the brave Little Dog. Nevada City, CA; Dawn Publications, 1998.
- Dunham, Montrew. John Muir, Young Naturalist. New York; Aladdin Paperbacks, 1998.
- Topp, Patricia. Call Him Father Nature, The Story of John Muir. Nevada City, CA; Blue Dolphin Publishing, Inc.
- Anderson, Peter. John Muir, Wilderness Prophet. New York/London; Franklin Watts, 1995.
- Tolan, Sally. People Who Have Helped the World, John Muir, Naturalist, writer, and guardian of the North American wilderness. Pennsylvania/Connecticut; Morehouse Publishing, 1990.
- Douglas, William O. Muir of the Mountains. Houghton Mifflin; Sierra Club Books, 1994.
- Muir, John. The Wild Muir, Twenty two of John Muir's Greatest Adventures. California; Yosemite Association, 1994.

Websites to find

- John Muir's Birthplace www.jmbt.org.uk
- Dunbar's John Muir Association www.djma.org.uk
- John Muir Trust www.jmt.org
- East Lothian Council Museums Service www.eastlothian.gov.uk/museums
- The Sierra Club www.sierra.org
- US National Park Service www.nps.gov
- John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez www.nps.gov/jomu
- Dunbar website www.dunbar.org

Places to visit in Scotland

- John Muir's Birthplace, 126 High Street, Dunbar EH42 1JJ.
- John Muir Country Park, Dunbar, East Lothian.
- The John Muir Clifftop Trail – a walk around Dunbar's coastline (around 3km one way); booklet produced by Dunbar's John Muir Association, available at JMB.
- John Muir's Dunbar – a walk around the town of Dunbar; booklet produced by Dunbar's John Muir Association, available at JMB.
- The John Muir Way – around 40 km of paths around the scenic coastline of East Lothian; leaflets available.
- Loch Lomond National Park. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Headquarters, The Old Station, Balloch, Scotland, G83 8SS. Tel +44 (0) 1389 722199. www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
- Cairngorms National Park. Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3HG. Tel 01479 873535. www.cairngorms.co.uk

Important events in John Muir's life

1838	John is born in Dunbar on 21st April
1851	Goes to Davel Brae School
1849	Leaves Dunbar and begins his new life, farming in Wisconsin, America
1850	Gets up at 1am to read and build his inventions
1860	Leaves home to show his inventions at Madison State Fair, Wisconsin
1861	Starts classes at the University of Wisconsin
1864	Travels to Canada, finds work as an engineer
1867	Sets out on 1000 mile walk to Gulf of Mexico
1868	First visit to Yosemite Valley, California
1879	First trip to the glaciers of Alaska
1880	Marries Louie Strenzel. Adventures with Stickeen in Alaska
1881	Daughter Wanda is born
1886	Daughter Helen is born
1890	Yosemite becomes a National Park
1892	John and his friends start the Sierra Club
1893	Travels around Europe, and visits Dunbar while in Scotland
1894	First book published – 'The mountains of California'
1895	Trip to Europe and visits Dunbar
1903	World tour, including Europe, Asia, Far East, Australia and New Zealand
1911	Tour of South America, including the Amazon, and Africa
1914	John dies of pneumonia in hospital in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve