



The story of Outdoor Adventure Education

Explore and Conquer

What did these people do/achieve?

- Christopher Columbus 15th century
- Ernest Shackleton 20th Century
- Sir Edmund Hillary – Mid 20th Century
- Alison Hargreaves – Late 20th Century
- Nims Purja – 21st Century



Robert Baden Powell

1857 - 1941

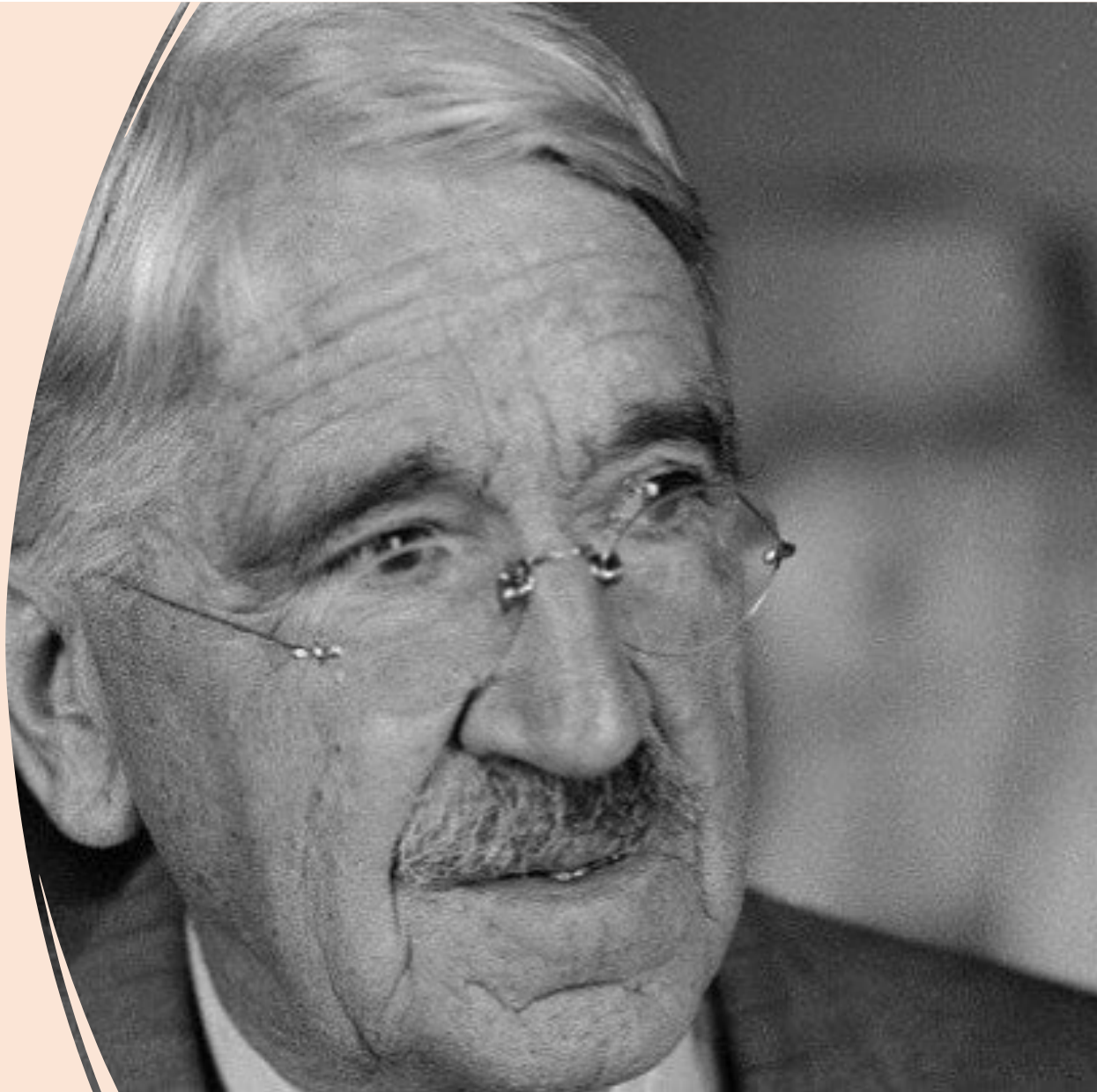
- Not a natural at school but loved adventure, paddled up the Thames in canoes to its source
- An army general in the late 19th Century
- Founded the scouting movement in 1908 to build citizenship in boys
- Social movement with a focus on “life skills” and “character building”
- Girl guide movement started in 1910 with his sister Agnes Baden-powell

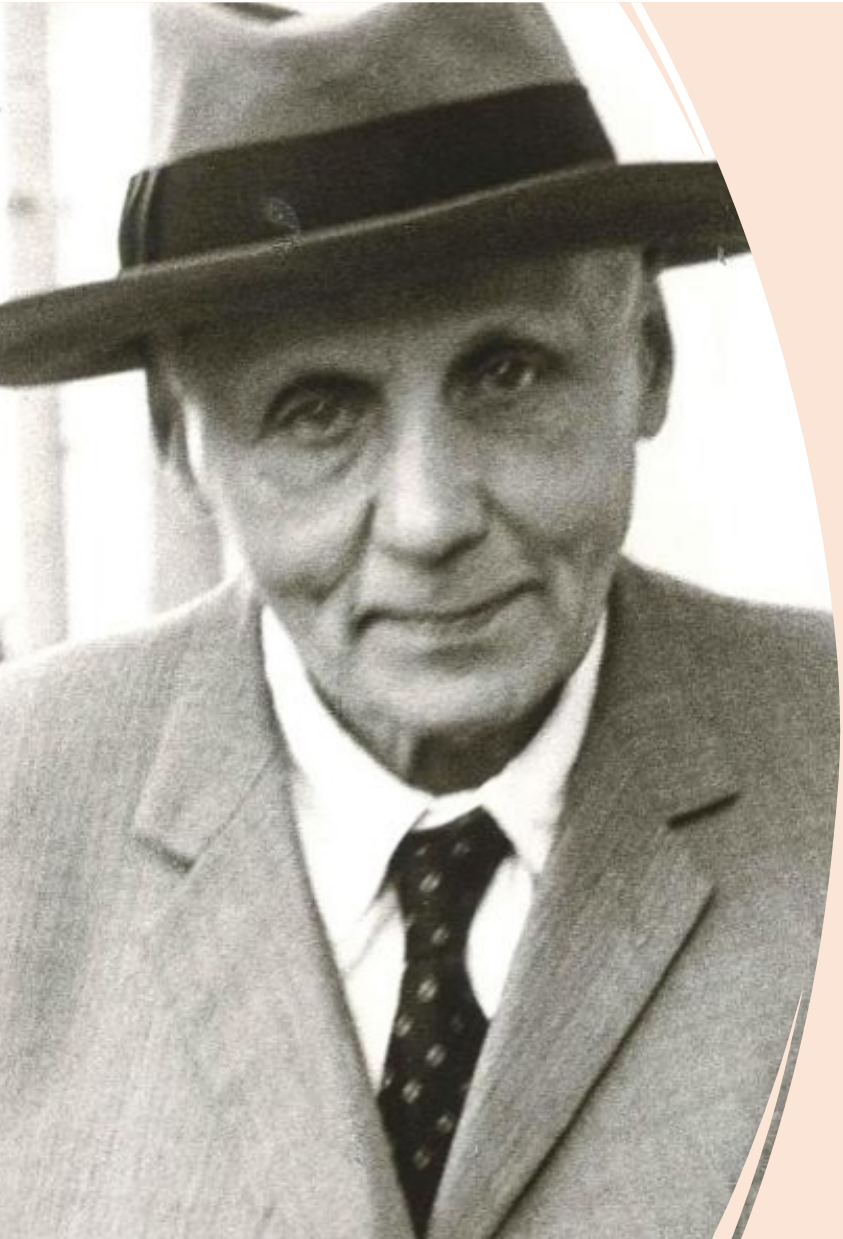


John Dewey

1859 - 1953

- The father of educational philosophy
- 4 stages of learning through first hand experiences and pausing for reflection before further practice
- Essentially the brain child of experiential learning programs the world over



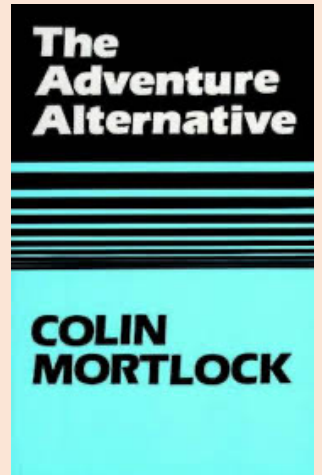
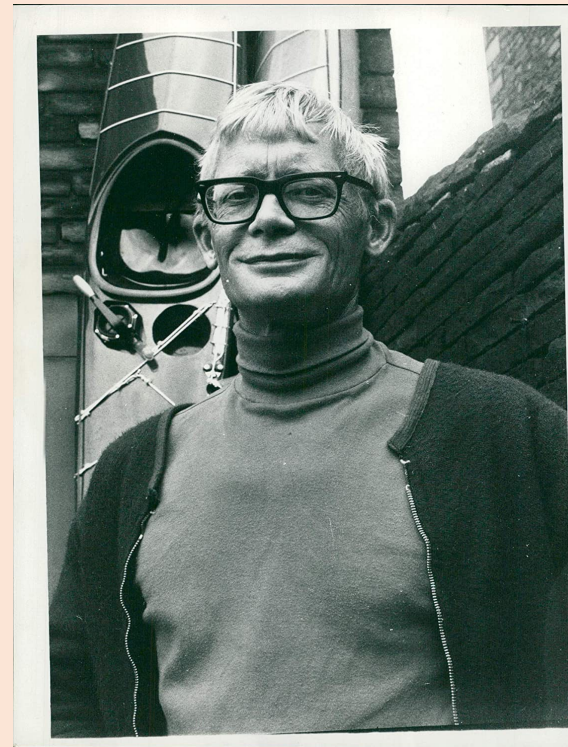


Kurt Hahn 1886 - 1974

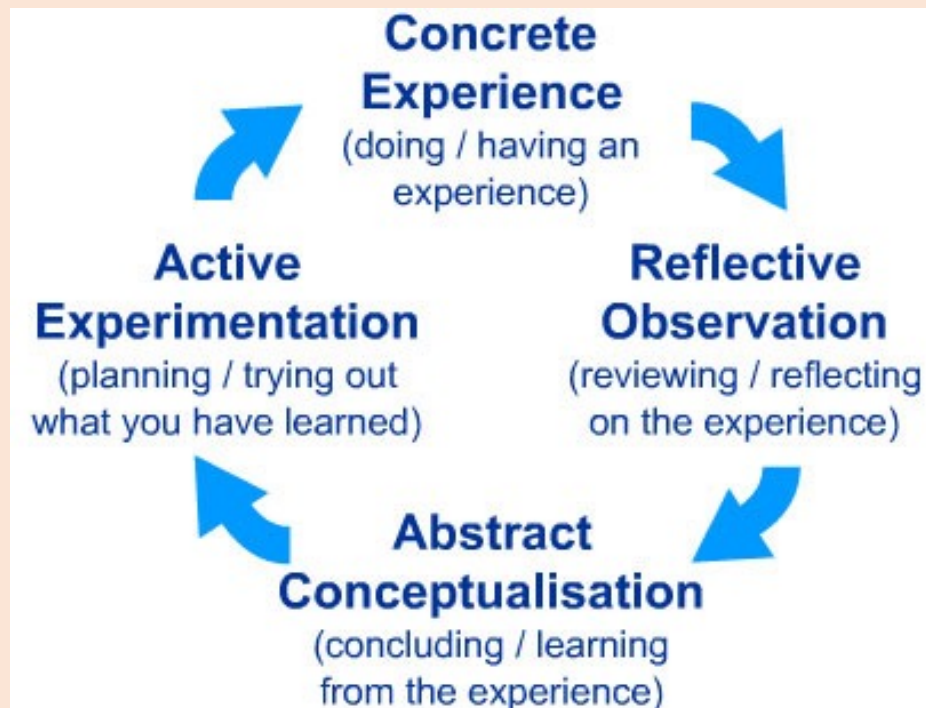
- Key figure in the development of experiential learning
- Believed it was the educators duty“ to impel young people into experience” and to build ‘a healthy body for a healthy mind’.
- Founder of
 - Salem School in Germany
 - Gordonstoun School in Scotland
 - United World Collages – Atlantic college 1965
 - Outward Bound Aberdovey 1941
 - Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Colin Mortlock born 1936

- British climber, kayaker and mountaineer
- Believed in adventure & risk
- Author of “The Adventure Alternative”
- Founder of the “Spirit of Adventure Foundation”
- 4 stages of adventure
 - Play
 - Adventure
 - Frontier Adventure
 - Misadventure



David Kolb born 1939



Kolb; 1984



Octavia Hill 1838 - 1912

- Her grandfather was a campaigner for better housing conditions for the working class
- Socialist
- Raised by single mother
- Worked to prioritise compassion over profit
- Used her influence as a landlord to develop culture and campaigned for open spaces in London for peoples health and wellbeing
- With Robert hunter they established the National Trust in 1895.



She campaigned so that: 'green spaces could be kept for the enjoyment, refreshment, and rest of those who have no country house'.

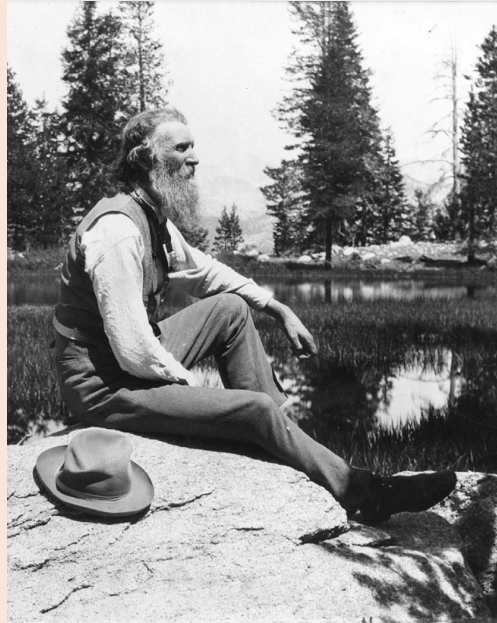


[Kinder Scout 1932](#)

John Muir

1838 - 1914

- Yosemite National Park - 1908
- [CPRE](#) National Parks Film 1938
- First National Park UK - 1951
- John Muir Trust Established 1983



Arne Naes 1912 - 2009

- Norwegian philosopher, ecologist and founder of the 'Deep Ecology' movement.
- Keen mountaineer; lived isolated in a hut in the mountains of southern Norway for over a quarter of his life
- Links to 'sustainable living' and 'sustainable practice' in outdoor education....developed from 'minimum impact approaches' (Friluftsliv in Norway)
- "Deep ecology teaches that belief in an objective comprehension of nature is belief in a flat world seen from above, without depth, and that such cool, disembodied detachment is an illusion, and a primary cause of our destructive relation to the land."
- Author of *Ecology, Community & Lifestyle* (1989)
- [Deep Ecology for the 21st Century](#) by George Sessions (1995)



Traditional (Western) Outdoor Education

- **Outward Bound** – 1941 Aberdovey – Kurt Hahn and Lawrence Holt
 - Personal and Social Development (Children, adults, corporate)
 - Priests Tree – Interpersonal and Intrapersonal
 - Character Building for young sailors to survive harsh conditions in war at sea
- **Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Centre** Founded 1972
 - Charitable Trust
 - Sow the seeds of change and growth
 - Residential short and long courses as well as instructor training
 - Home of the Mangetepopo gorge disaster
- **Woodlands Outdoor Education Centre**
 - LEA Oxford
 - Established in 1970's
 - One of 3 centres owned by the county



Local Education Authority (LEA)

- 1944 Education Act: Encouraged the use of the outdoors for education
- Link to Hahnism – Personal and Social development through physical and mental challenge
- Resulted in Local Education Authorities establishing 'camps' to facilitate this purpose – Going away from home
- First in UK was White Hall in the Peak District in the 1950's (Derbyshire County Council)
- Heavily subsidized by government funding and therefore affordable for school trips
- Reduced funding, reduced value and increased pressure on schools are contributing to decline
- National Curriculum in 1988 meant less teaching to the needs of the student and more teaching to the test
- Reduced funding in schools – One of the first things to go
- Austerity – Financial crisis 2007/8, Gordon Brown's Labour followed by Cameron/Clegg coalition govt.
- PE Curriculum in 2008 included Adventurous Activities (in Wales). BUT..... Taught in school grounds, lack of adventure?

Commercial Provision and Adventure Tourism

- PGL, Acorn etc etc – lower prices, advertising exciting sexier activities, 10 per day
- TYF Adventure
- Go-Ape
- Surf Snowdonia
- Half day activities
- Childcare/Fairground rides
- Are these Outdoor Adventure Education??
- High Quality Outdoor Learning? (see week 1)



The role of the education system! Is this the antithesis of Outdoor Adventure Education?



What's next for Outdoor Education

Challenges/Opportunities:

- Technology
- Legislation (WBFGA, AALS)
- Economics
- Political Agenda
- Global Environmental Crisis
- Health Crisis (physical and mental)
- Financial crisis
- Nature Deficit (Louv, 2010)
- Social Culture (Fear, risk intolerance, consumerism, liquid times)

#saveoutdoored



Paradigms:

- Algorithmic (Ringer, 1999; Off the peg)
- Moral (Hahnism)
- Ecological (Friluftsliv & Sustainability)



The Future!



References

- Ewert, A. W., & Garvey, D. E. (2007). *Philosophy and theory of adventure education*. In D. Prouty, J. Panicucci, & R. Collinson (Eds.), *Adventure education: Theory and applications* (pp. 19–32). Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.
- Hildreth, R. W. (2011). What Good Is Growth? Reconsidering Dewey on the Ends of Education. *Education and Culture*, 27(2), 28–47.
- Hopkins, D & Putnam, R (1993). *Personal Growth through Adventure*; London; Routledge
- Itin CM. (1999) Reasserting the Philosophy of Experiential Education as a Vehicle for Change in the 21st Century. *Journal of Experiential Education*. ;22(2):91-98.
- IOL (2021) Outdoor Learning (Online) <https://www.outdoor-learning.org/Portals/0/IOL%20Documents/About%20Outdoor%20Learning/RR1%20-%20Describing%20Outdoor%20Learning%202-8-21.pdf?ver=2021-08-10-133755-690> (Accessed September 2022)
- Mortlock, C. (1983). *Adventure Education and Outdoor Pursuits*, Keswick, England; Ferguson.
- Priest, S. (1986) Redefining Outdoor Education; A matter of many Relationships; *Journal of Environmental Education*; 17 (3)
- Priest, S & Gass, M. (2005). *Effective Leadership in Adventure Programming*; Human Kinetics
- Yasim. M,, Mazuki & Aziz, Azlizam & Amin, Md & Md Taff, Md Amin & Zakaria, Jaffry. (2014). OUTDOOR EDUCATION: ITS RELATIONSHIPS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION. *Malaysian Journal of Sport, Recreational and Education*. 1. 60-64.