

ECEY 6005
2305703

JOHN MUIR AND NATURE'S APPRENTICES:

Inspiring young minds
to visualise a
sustainable tomorrow

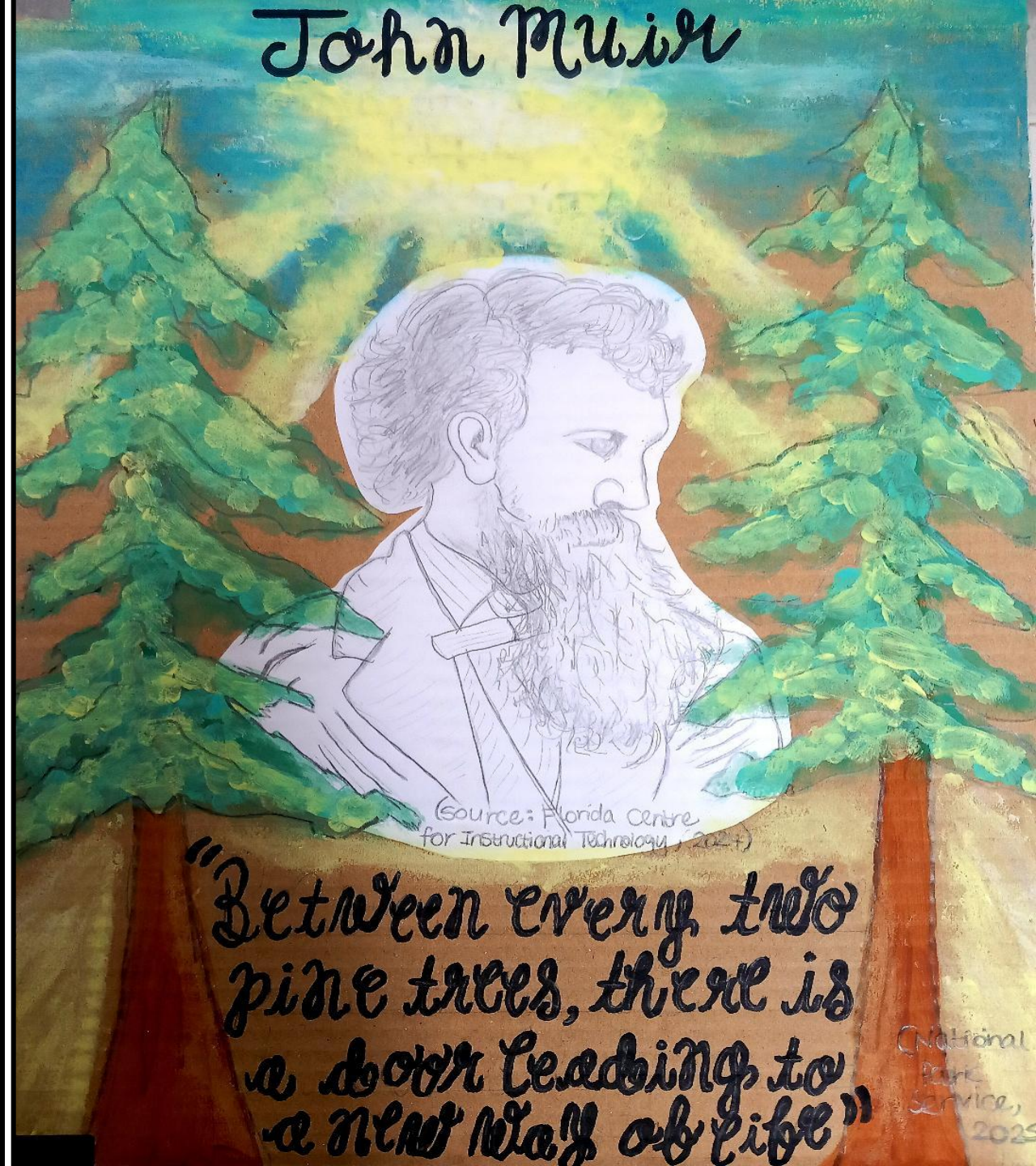


By
Christie Roberts

Introduction

The significance of sustainability in the early years, will be critically analysed in this assignment, with a particular emphasis on how conservation activities and initiatives in the wild, could support the fundamental principles and theory of Early Childhood Education for Sustainability. The profound influence of John Muir (founder of the conservation movement) (John Muir Trust, 2025a), his ecological legacy, and the academic significance of the John Muir Award, will also be explored.

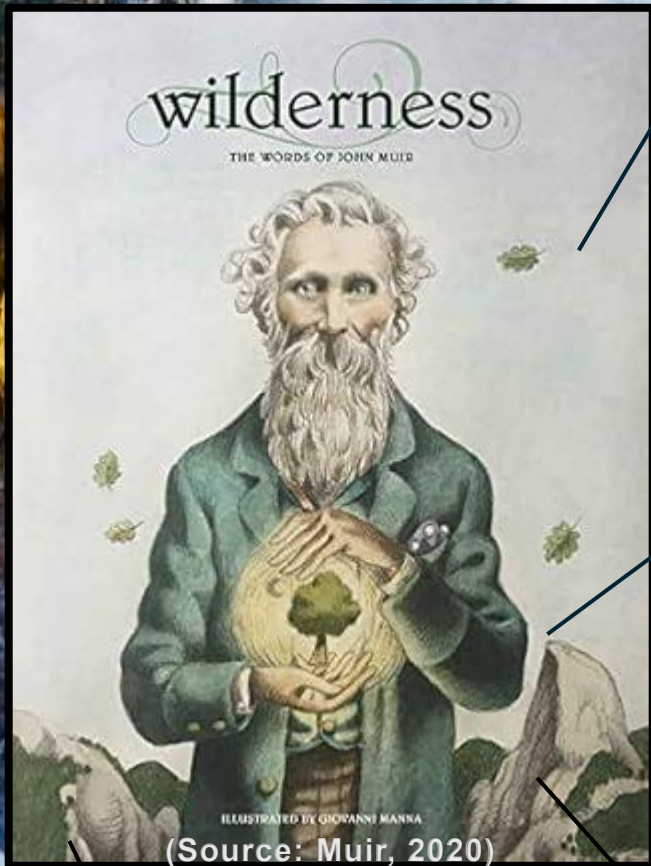
John Muir



(Source: Florida Centre
for Instructional Technology, 2025)

"Between every two
pine trees, there is
a door leading to
a new way of life"

National
Park
Service,
2025



John Muir – Scottish farmer and inventor, who emigrated to America
(Sierra Club, 2025a)

He fell in love with nature and created Yosemite National Park
(Sierra Club, 2025a)

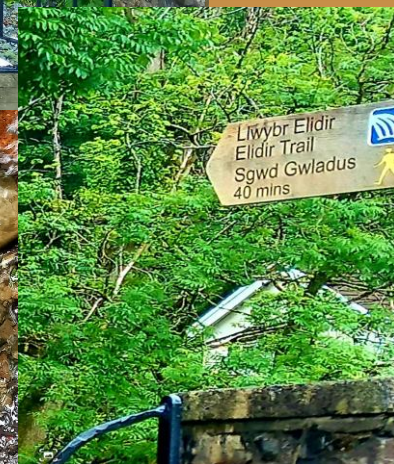
(Source: Muir, 2020)

John Muir swam in the Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe.
(Magee, 2021)

He had a passion for waterfalls.
(Muir, 2023)

Sgwd Gwladys

Discover (My Chosen Location)



Llwybr Eldir
Eldir Trail
Sgwd Gwladys
40 mins

Wonderful



Scan to discover
the story behind
Sgwd Gwladys

(Source: Kelly-Smith, 2024)

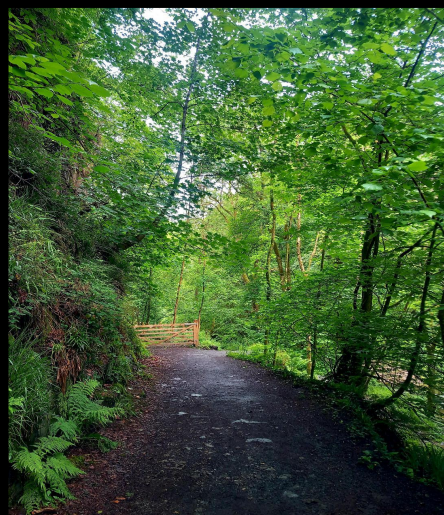


(Source: The
Bulmershe
School, 2023)

Gwladys



(Source: Flynn, 2022)



Explore

Red
Campion

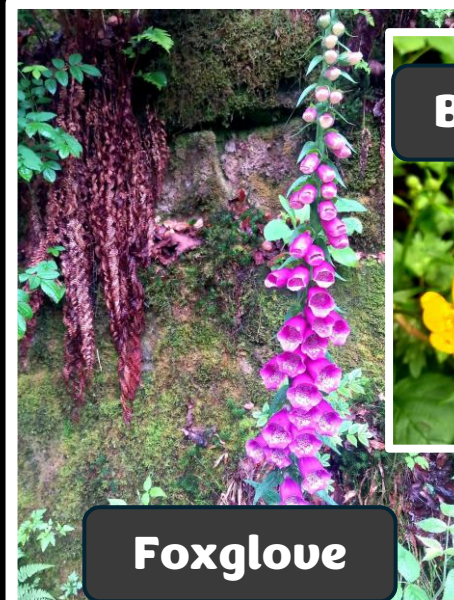


Queen
Anne's
Lace

Buttercup



Foxglove



Herb-
Robert



Japanese
Spikenard

Honeysuckle



Bark and Moss



Scan to discover facts
on trees in the UK
(Source: Woodland Trust,
n.d.a)

**Hawthorn,
Hazel and
Beech**



**Ferns and
Stinging
Nettles**



Holly



Ivy



Scan to discover
facts on plants and
flowers in the UK

(Source: Woodland Trust,
n.d.b)

**Beautiful Flowers, trees and
plants discovered, during
exploration**

Wildlife



Scan to discover
facts on insects in
the UK

(Source: Varela, 2023)

Tadpoles!



Frog

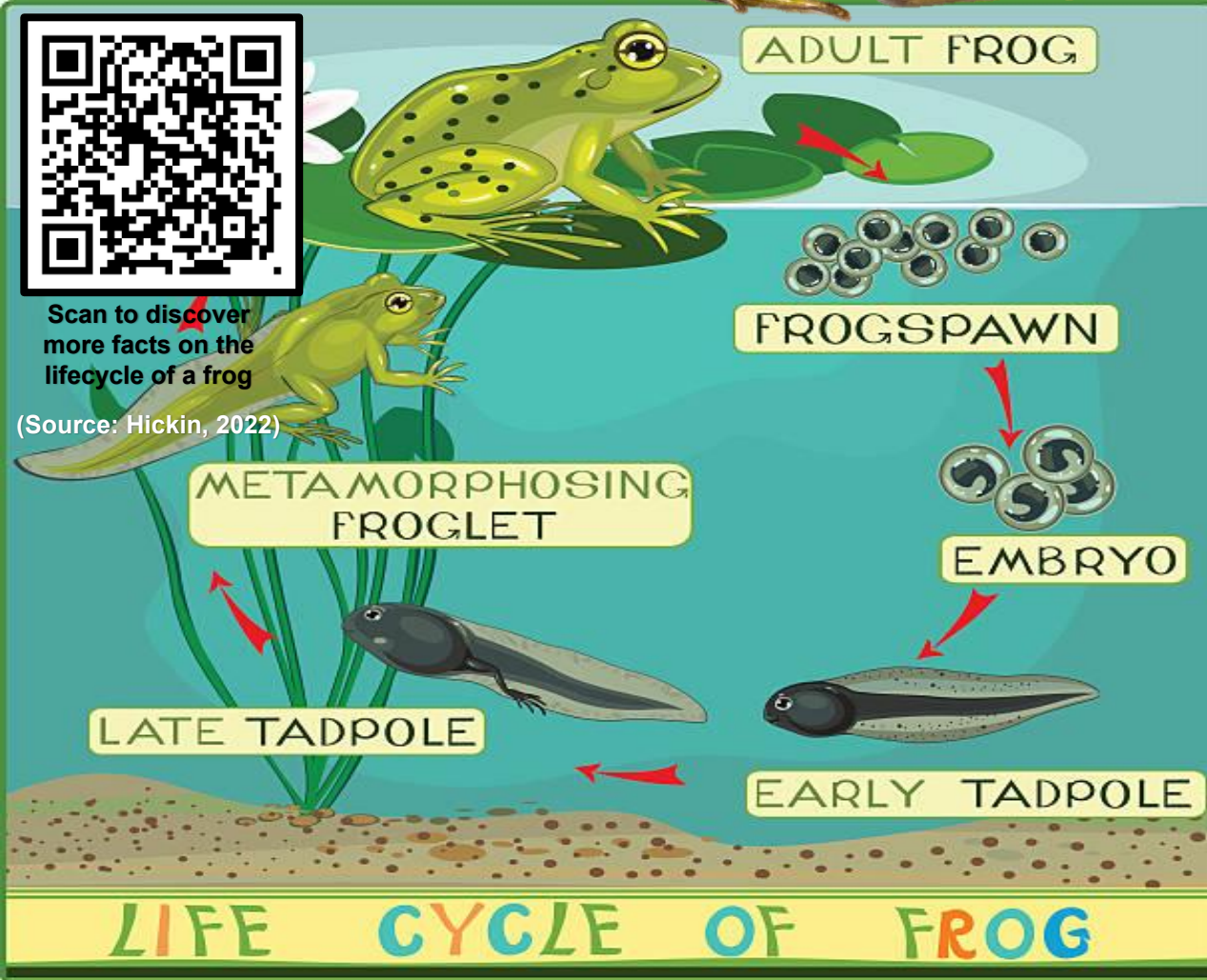


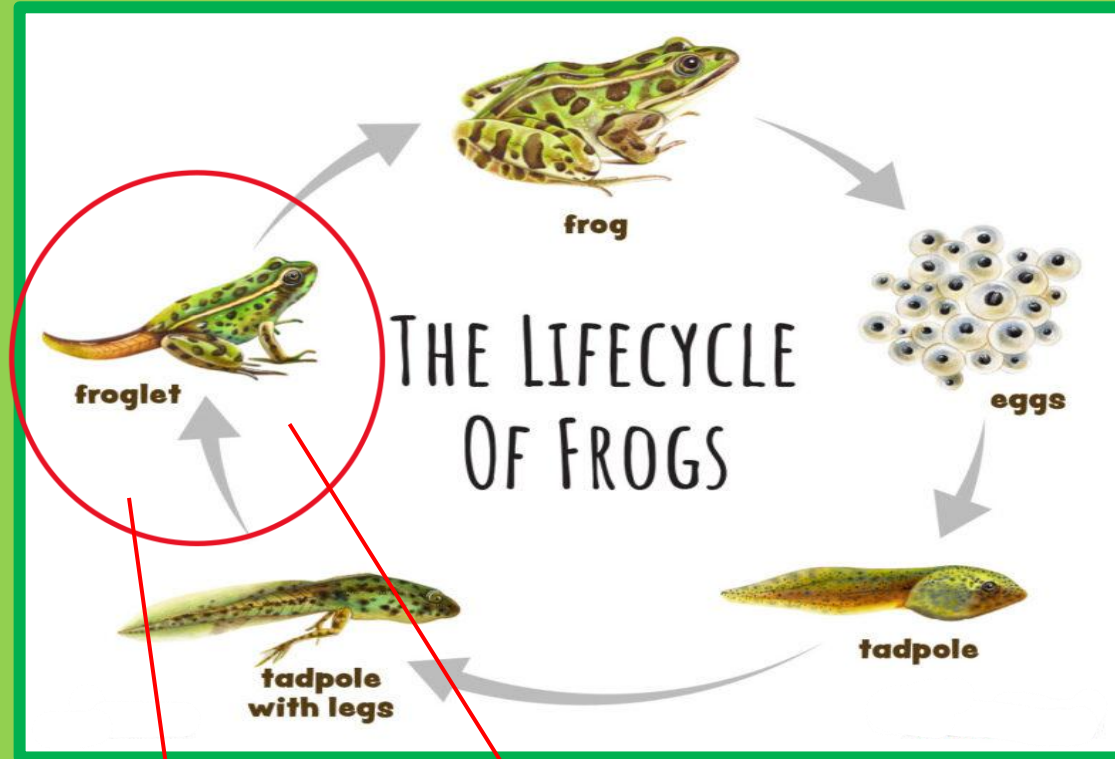
Curiosity, led to my amazing discovery!



Scan to discover more facts on the lifecycle of a frog

(Source: Hickin, 2022)





(Source: Let's Go Avocado, 2025)

During my subsequent explorations at the falls, metamorphosis had taken place, and the tadpoles had developed into froglets!



Birds



Scan to discover more facts on
birds in the UK
(Source: Woodland Trust, n.d.c)

Swallow



(Source: Jourde, 2025)

Blackbird



(Source: eBird, 2025)

Robin



(Source: CJ Wildlife, 2020)

Buzzard



(Source: McBride, 2024)



CONSERVATION

(My chosen location
to conserve)





Activities



Bird nest



Hedgehog den



Nest balls



Bird feeders

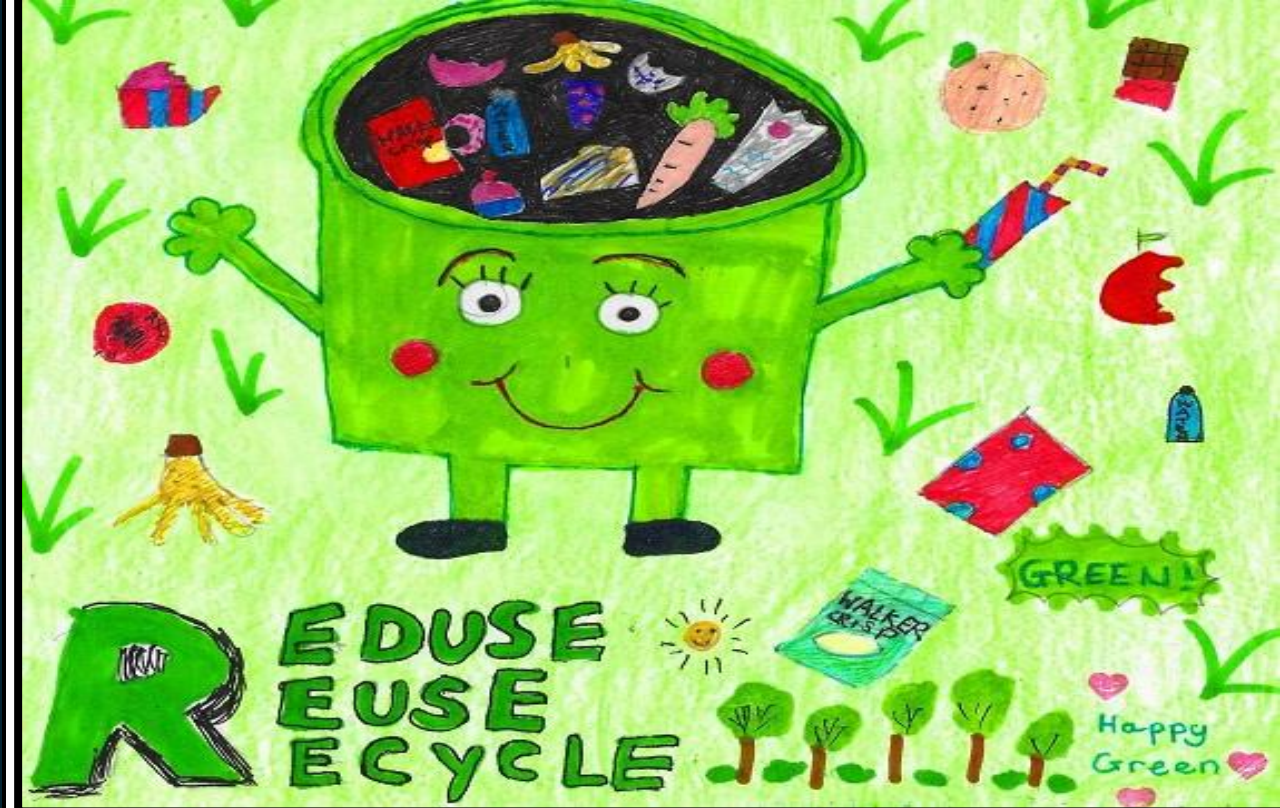


Litter!

According to North Wales Wildlife Trust (n.d.) by contaminating ecosystems, injuring animals, and dispersing chemicals, litter damages the environment and biodiversity. Plastic and other debris may cause death or injure animals if they consume it or become entangled in it, in addition to contributing to climate change, and disrupting ecosystems, litter contaminates waterways and soil, in addition to deteriorating the health of individuals and the beauty of nature (North Wales Wildlife Trust, n.d.)



Educating children regarding Environmental concerns is vital



(Source: Ingatstone and Fryerning Parish Council, 2017)



(Source: Watts, 2018)



(Source: Helping Hand Environmental, 2025)

Conservation is crucial



(Source: Mitra, 2020)



(Source: BBC, 2022)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

(Source: Greenfield, 2025)

1



Biodiversity Is the Backbone of Ecosystem Health

It ensures clean air, water, and fertile soil by maintaining ecological balance.

2



It Safeguards Our Food and Health Systems

Over 75% of global food crops rely on pollinators, highlighting biodiversity's role in food security.

3



Conservation Is a Form of Self-Defense

Losing species disrupts entire ecological networks, putting humanity at direct risk.



(Source: BBC, 2022)

Share



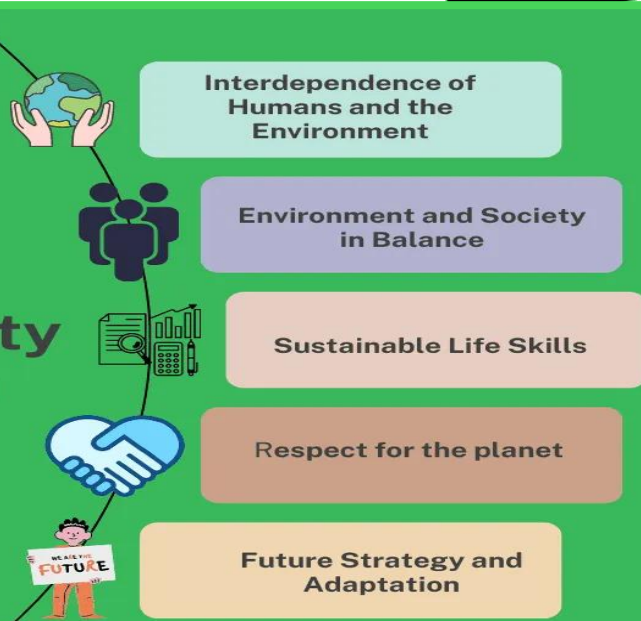
(Source: Zafar, 2024)

Collaboration is fundamental
to conserve and maintain
our natural environment



(Source: KiwiCo, 2025)

Need for Sustainability Education



(Source: Kain, 2023)

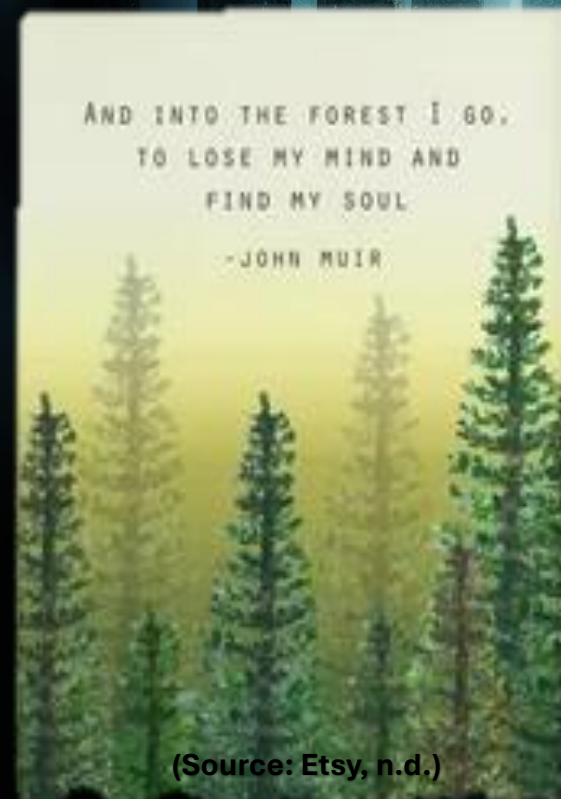
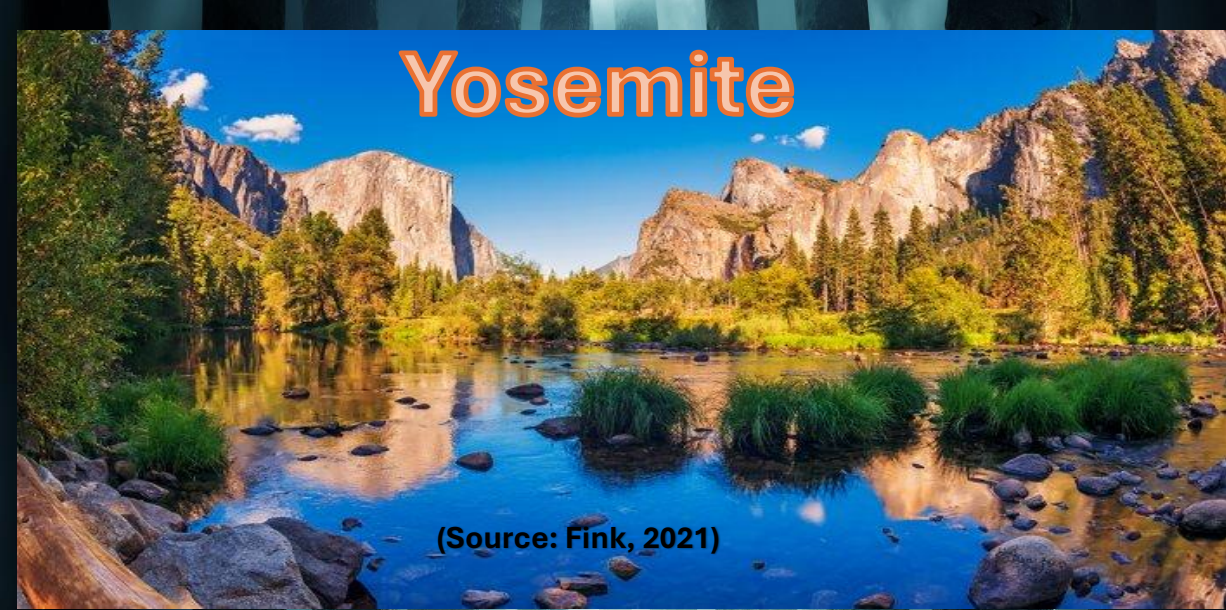
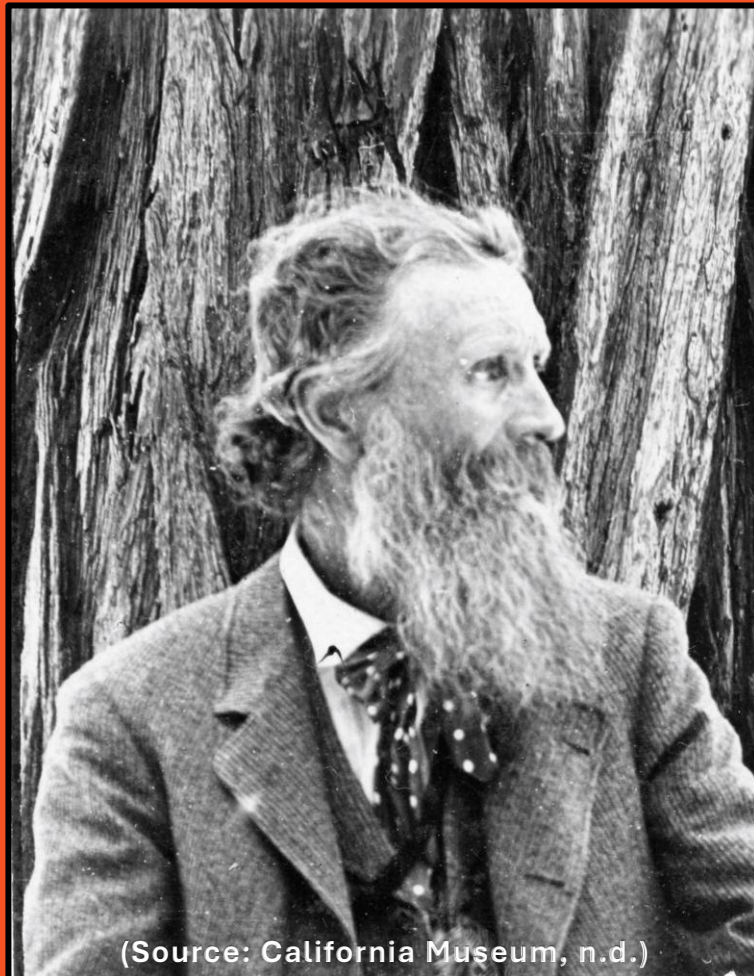


(Source: Weebly, n.d.)



The John Muir Award encourages personal growth, ethical outdoor exploration, and awareness of the environment (John Muir Trust, 2025a),

Children gain self-assurance, a sense of responsibility and develop lifelong skills, while contributing positively to the natural ecosystem, through hands-on activities and self-reflection (John Muir Trust, 2025a).





SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

(Source: Sierra Club, 2025b)

Muir, who was well-known for his intense passion for the natural world, sparked a widespread enthusiasm for wilderness preservation, through his poetic writings, and establishment of national parks (National Park Service, 2025b).

In 1892, Muir co-founded the Sierra Club (National Park Service, 2025b), which is now an important organisation for environmental protection.

Highlights of my adventures

Discover

