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


Websites to find

- John Muir’s Birthplace [www.jmbt.org.uk](http://www.jmbt.org.uk)
- Dunbar’s John Muir Association [www.djma.org.uk](http://www.djma.org.uk)
- John Muir Trust [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)
- East Lothian Council Museums Service [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/museums](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/museums)
- The Sierra Club [www.sierra.org](http://www.sierra.org)
- US National Park Service [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)
- John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu)
- Dunbar website [www.dunbar.org](http://www.dunbar.org)
Places to visit in Scotland

- John Muir’s Birthplace, 126 High Street, Dunbar EH42 1JJ.
- 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](http://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](http://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
1893    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