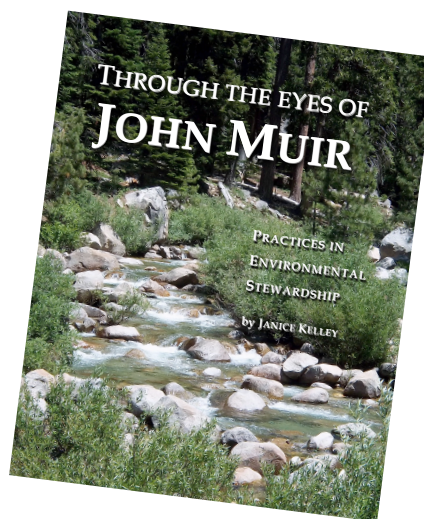


Quotations

Community Stories

Stewardship

Nature Exploration



# Through the Eyes of John Muir

Nature study within the context of Muir's life and practices.

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**Client:** John Muir  
National Historic Site

**Project:** Field trip  
curriculum for fourth  
grade students

*"Nothing goes unrecorded.  
Every word of leaf and  
snowflake and particle of dew  
... as well as earthquake and  
avalanche, is written down in  
Nature's book."*

John Muir

Selected activities in this book became the foundation for the **Nature Detectives** after school program. Aligns with third and fourth grade Common Core and NGSS Standards

## Problem

Park leadership at the *John Muir National Historic Site* in Martinez, CA believed the field trip experience for teachers and students did not reflect the significance of the life of John Muir or the natural and historic resources of the site itself. The site includes John Muir's home; his 2,300 acre fruit ranch (now seven acres surrounded by urban development); and the *Martinez Adobe*, an historic home and exhibit that is part of the *Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail*.

## Opportunity

Janice collaborated with park interpretive and curatorial staff to develop new material used as pre-visit, day of field trip stations, interpretive ideas and themes for docents and paid interpretive staff, post visit follow up lessons and evaluation strategies. She also participated with interpretive staff in a one day teacher orientation meeting to help define overall themes and needs for classroom instruction and field trip experiences.

## Outcomes

- Research on John Muir, his father-in-law John Strentzel, the historic site and area history is a useful guide for training new docents and park staff.
- Field trip curriculum includes more than two dozen lessons, puzzles, games, activities and field stations and Muir quotations for park interpretive staff to present to students and other visitors.
- Book pictured is a modified version of lessons presented to park site staff, now available for purchase on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and website designed for teachers, "teacherspayteachers.com"