John Muir

Walking in a lush, green forest, tall redwood trees towing over you, giant sequoias stretching on all sides. Sunlight filters through the canopy overhead. This is the work of John Muir, my hero. John Muir was a major preservationist for California, saving miles of wilderness that we know enjoy today.

Muir was born on April 21, 1838 in Scotland and migrated to America, landing in Wisconsin. He spent a lot of time walking the land. He hiked to Canada, returned to the United States, and then walked about ***1,000*** miles to Florida. Finally, he settled in California.

I wouldn't have some of my best memories if John Muir had not existed. I remember hiking in the woods playing games like *Capture the Flag* and *Kick the Can*. I remember running full speed through dense forest chasing or being chased. I remember hiking on dirt paths, enjoying the sights and inhaling fresh air. Without Muir, these places would be houses or farms, all wilderness vanquished.

Muir is also considered *"the father of Yosemite".* The vast landscape and the thundering waterfalls blew him away. Muir built a water-powered mill to cut trees. He only cut trees in the mill that the wind had knocked over. Muir constructed a cabin along Yosemite creek. He made it so the stream went through a corner of the room because he liked the sound of running water.

He thought the greatest threat to Yosemite was mostly the domestic sheep, which he called *"hoofed locusts".* He got a reporter to camp with him and look at the damage the large flock had inflicted to the grass. Muir asked him to publish an article on the sheep as well as get a bill to make Yosemite a national park. If he hadn't cared so much for Yosemite, we couldn't enjoy its awe striking sights. My family used to go to Yosemite every year to *"hike and bike"*.

I also consider him as my hero because he co-founded the Sierra Club. He was elected president of the club. Some things the club did include: opposing efforts to halve the size of Yosemite, holding educational and scientific meetings, and the fight to preserve *"Hetch Hetchy Valley",* a breath-taking place.

Without a doubt, John Muir helped preserve wilderness for the generations to come. Without him, we wouldn't have many of the beautiful places like Yosemite as exist today. This is why he is my hero.