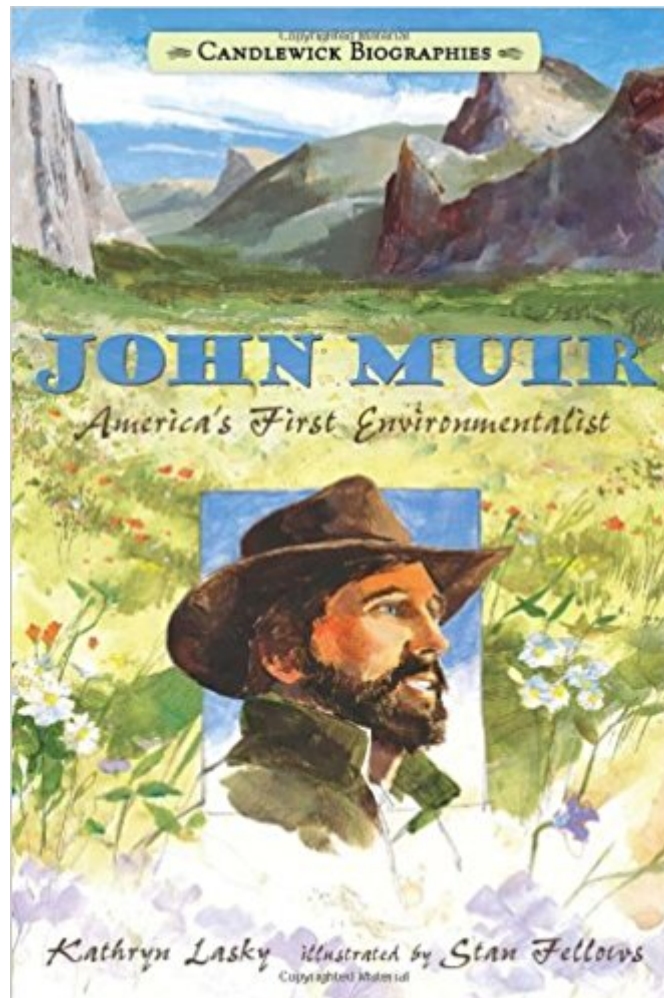




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John Muir: Candlewick Biographies: America's First Environmentalist



Synopsis

Quoting from John Muir's diaries, Kathryn Lasky tells the inspiring tale of one of America's most dedicated environmentalists, aided by Stan Fellows's evocative, dramatic acrylic paintings. From the meadows of Scotland to the farms of Wisconsin, from the swamps of Florida to the Alaskan tundra, John Muir loved the land. Born in 1838, he was a writer, a scholar, an inventor, a shepherd, a farmer, and an explorer, but above all, he was a naturalist. John Muir was particularly devoted to the high cliffs, waterfalls, and ancient giant sequoia trees that, through his careful influence, were set aside as one of the first national parks in America - Yosemite. Here is the life story of the man who, moved by a commitment to wilderness everywhere, founded the Sierra Club in 1892, a conservation group that carries on his crucial work to this day.

Book Information

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Series: Candlewick Biographies

Paperback: 56 pages

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-4-Lasky's picture-book sketch of the naturalist's life focuses on Muir's special love of California's snowy Sierras and Yosemite Valley and his successes in founding Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Club. The author recounts aspects of Muir's boyhood years in Scotland and teens in Wisconsin to introduce his personality and interests, and the brief account of his

accomplishments closes with the often-told story of his Alaskan adventure with his dog Stickeen in 1870 and a page on the 1890 legislation to establish Yosemite as a park. The epilogue summarizes his achievements and later years without indicating how long he actually lived. Fellows's acrylic paintings, sometimes full page and often wrapping around the text, provide pleasant impressions of the man and the impressive landscape. This is a useful introduction to Muir, the founding of the national parks, and the broader idea of environmentalism. A final page describes the work of the Sierra Club.-Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 4-7. Wilderness adventure is an essential part of this big, handsome picture-book biography of a pioneer environmentalist who was entranced by storms as much as by the small things in the wild places he cherished. Lasky's clear prose quotes liberally from diary entries Muir recorded as he walked from Wisconsin to the Gulf Coast of Florida in 1867, tracked glaciers in Alaska in 1870, and later served as guide to the famous, including President Theodore Roosevelt, who founded Yosemite National Park. True to Muir's vision, Fellows' spacious double-page watercolors show the beauty of the wide landscapes in storm and sunshine as well as the tiny details in a single meadow. Back matter includes a bibliography of Muir's quotes and a note about the work of the Sierra Club, which Muir founded in 1892. A good starting place for science and biography projects, this book will also appeal to young activists with its message about people needing "beauty as well as bread." Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Christmas gift. I hope my daughter likes it, but I can tell you I love it. Gorgeous artwork. I did a term paper on John Muir in 10th grade, about 30 years ago. I have bought my daughter a few other books like Stickeen, The Camping Trip that Changed America (awesome one), and another Muir biography. This book has all the bio, but the artwork.... man the artwork. It provides a whole other level for connecting with the material

John Muir is such a household name that, as a journalist for 40 years, I had neglected to read much about him. Someone might say to me, "You know John Muir, of course." And I'd answer, "Certainly." I thought I knew him. Then I opened up Candlewick

Press's new biography of Muir for young readers and, I must confess, I really met this inspiring man for the first time. Sure, I knew that he had founded the Sierra Club; that he was responsible for helping to establish our first national parks; and even that he was famous for hiking incredibly long distances with minimal provisions in his shoulder bag. But this fun-to-read overview of his life by Kathryn Lasky really gives us a glimpse of Muir's life in a fresh and detailed way, including lots of details I had missed. I wasn't aware of his childhood in Scotland, which Lasky covers. I had no idea that Muir was involved in early research on receding glaciers. I didn't know that he was a conscientious objector during the Civil War. I had no idea that he personally guided Theodore Roosevelt and Ralph Waldo Emerson in treks along his favorite trails. The truth about the best of children's books is this: They're for children •but they're just as much for the adults who love them. That's certainly true of this book!

A basic introduction to the life of John Muir, written for children in early elementary school. The illustrations are beautiful and add to the story line. We bought the book because two of our grandsons, ages 8 & 11, will be visiting Muir Woods in California in March. So, we wanted them to learn a little about John Muir. However, after reading John Muir's own writings, I wish this book had been more faithful to his words. I thought the stories of his younger life were exaggerated and not true to Muir's own words. However, a different book where the author used Muir's own words was too long for the boys at this age and the pictures were only in black and white. So, that is why I chose this book.

This excellent biography is the perfect way to introduce a youngster to John Muir. There is no downside to this book which is why it has won a number of awards. In fact the whole family will enjoy reading this account of Muir's life. If you want greater detail after having finished the book check the "Sources" list at the back. Book provided by publisher.

Interesting and informative book covering the life of John Muir. The illustrations were lovely and I enjoyed learning about his early life (something that I had not found covered in other picture books.) I think this book would be better received by its target audience in a small chapter book format. Most older kids may dismiss this as a baby book, and younger kids would not sit through such a lengthy read.

"I heard the storm and made haste to join it, for many of nature's finest lessons are to be found in her storms." -- John Muir, quoted in *John Muir: America's First Environmentalist*, which is an excellent picture book for older readers. I love how a picture book like this can provide enough inspiration to potentially change a reader's perspective of the world in 32 pages of text and paintings. In portraying the life story of this great American hero, Lasky and Fellows offer a wealth of fact, memorable journal quotations, a blast of frigid Arctic blizzard conditions, and a taste of romanticism. Anyone who has experienced the majesty of Yosemite or the other national parks that were established in the wake of his advocacy for wild, public spaces, should recognize that Muir has played a role in helping create what America is today to a degree no less important than was played by its better known founding fathers.

Book received as promised, brand new. My students loved the story, which tied in with our theme of protecting the environment.

It's a pleasure to see Kathryn Lasky's biography, *John Muir: America's First Environmentalist* appear for a younger audience than biographies of Muir usually writes for: Stan Fellows provides gorgeous watercolors to accompany a book which uses John Muir's own diaries as a foundation for an exploration of his life and thoughts. Students in grades 3-5 are provided with a review of his childhood dreams and early love of nature, and will find the picturebook format most accessible.

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