

## ***I Will Walk One Thousand Miles – Exploring Nature***



Before you begin this activity reread the *I Will Walk One Thousand Miles* section from the John Muir graphic novel where it describes how John Muir lived among the creatures in the trees:

*‘In Savannah, Georgia, I ran out of money and built a hut out of branches. The animals thought I was some strange big bird in a nest.*

Squirrel: Looks a bit nutty to me.’

Then, to set the scene, you will watch some footage of a protected species in Scotland – the red squirrel.

The aim of this activity is, in the spirit of John Muir, to locate and observe a specific tree throughout the seasons, taking note of all the creatures that depend on it, at different times of the year.

John Muir realised, when he was a teenager, that to understand the nature around him it was best to immerse himself in it totally to be able to discover and study plant life (such as trees), and all creatures that depend on it, more fully.

This activity should take place during your holidays and you can report your findings back to your class, or during the school year, the whole class could adopt a tree within your school grounds.

### **Pupil records**

The tree I am going to monitor at home during each school holiday is a

.....



**John Muir, *Earth - Planet, Universe*: Pupil Activity Support Notes**

Or the tree my class is going to monitor through the seasons, in our school grounds, is a .....

If you need help with tree identification use the following link

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/learn/british-trees/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/learn/british-trees/)

**To estimate the age of the tree I am studying I will:**

1. Measure round the trunk of the tree 1.3 m from the ground with a length of string or a soft tape measure.

The measurement of the girth (circumference) in centimetres is .....

N.B. A fast-growing tree, such as pine or willow, increases its girth by approximately 3 cm a year. Trees such as oak, ash and beech grow more slowly and increase their girth by about 2 cm a year.

2. Divide the girth measurement by 2 or 3cm accordingly, to determine an approximate age.

The age of the tree is approximately .....

3. Why do you think the measurement is only approximate? What would affect how quickly or slowly a tree would grow?

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***John Muir, Earth - Planet, Universe: Pupil Activity Support Notes***

Observed during	The tree looked like this	The creatures I observed living in, on or around the tree included
Summer		
Observed during	The tree looked like this	The creatures I observed living in, on or around the tree included
Autumn		

***John Muir, Earth - Planet, Universe: Pupil Activity Support Notes***

Observed during	The tree looked like this	The creatures I observed living in, on or around the tree included
Winter		
Observed during	The tree looked like this	The creatures I observed living in, on or around the tree included
Spring		



## ***John Muir, Earth - Planet, Universe: Pupil Activity Support Notes***

### **Further work**

If you would like to expand this activity further and carry out even more activities linked to 'Discovering Nature' you can take part in John Muir Mission Explore. To find out how to do this, go to the John Muir Award website:

<https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/initiatives/missionexplore-john-muir>