

A Marriage Made in Heaven – Creative Journaling



Before you begin look through the John Muir graphic novel and read the section *A Marriage Made in Heaven*, which describes how:

'After years in the mountains, I came back to the human world. I married and became a fruit farmer. Soon Louie and I had two daughters, Wanda and Helen.'

John Muir: Daisy, buttercup, forget-me-not, dandelion. . .

Helen: Daddy lion?

Wanda: Do we need to learn the names of ALL the flowers?

John Muir: You wouldn't like it if people didn't know your names!'

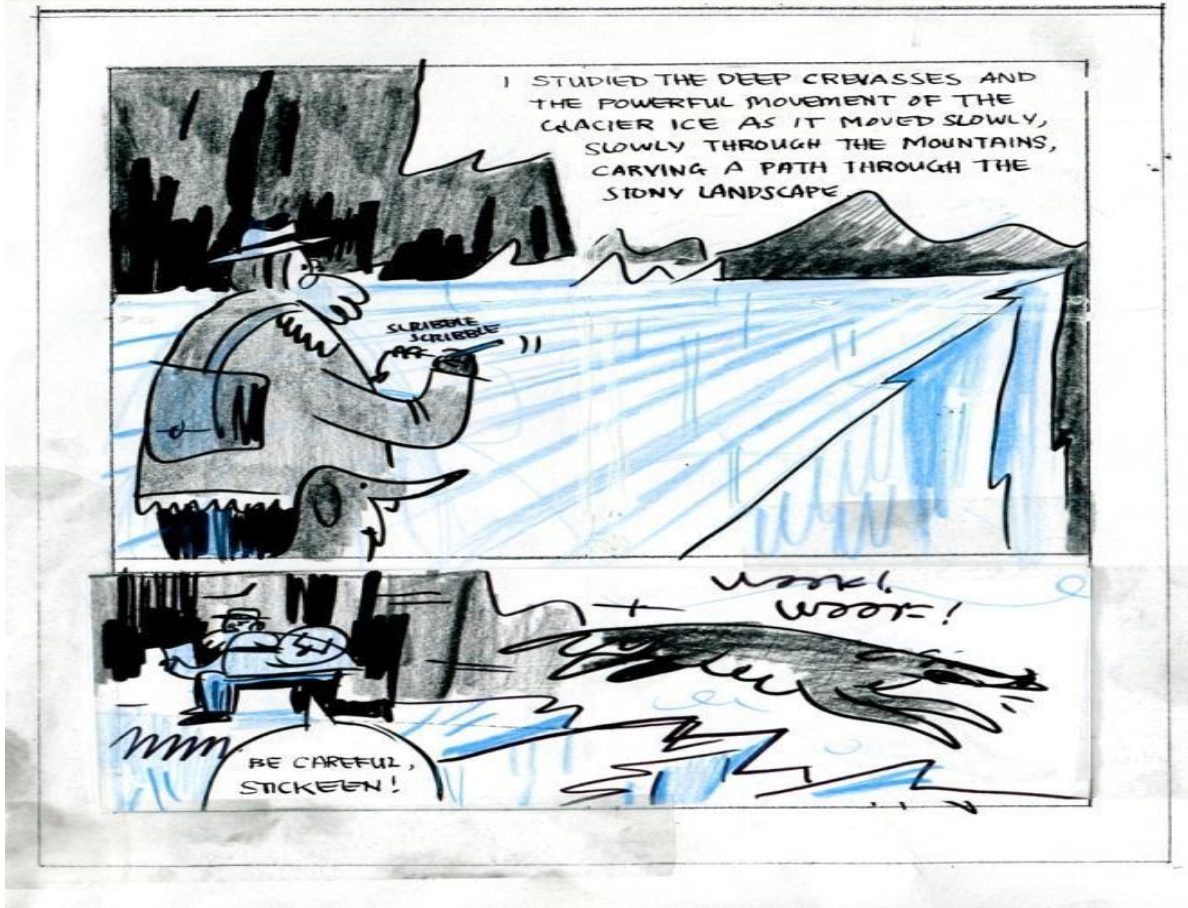
The aim of this activity is to observe in detail and then draw the natural world around you, such as the components of plants, their leaves and flowers, and learn their Latin as well as their common names.

You will watch a series of videos showing basic techniques to quickly and accurately draw plants. These videos make use of paper models that can be cut out and manipulated to teach the fundamentals of foreshortening leaves and flowers for either field sketching or careful botanical illustrations. Your teacher will hand out these paper models (the Leaf-Flower worksheet) for you to use as you watch the videos, to help you try out the techniques yourself.

Further work

After watching the videos think about how John Muir tried to draw the glaciers he discovered during his travels.

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



Like John Muir your challenge is to start doing your own creative journaling, i.e. capture your own personal observation of a local park/woodland or your garden or school ground or mini nature reserve – create a visual link with your surroundings using words and images in the same way that nature writers record their favourite moments with nature. For further ideas to help you with this read the poems created by pupils on the worksheet [Poems from Lochaber School](#).