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John Burroughs Lesson Plan

NYS LEARNING STANDARD

- Social Studies: standard 1—History of the United States and New York
- The Arts: standards 1—Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts
- English: standards 1, 2, & 4—Language for Information and Understanding; Language for Literary Response and Expression; Language for Social Interaction

GRADE LEVEL: 4th Grade

MATERIALS

- Use of internet
- *Riverby Edition* by John Burroughs
- Pen and paper
- Transportation to Riverby

LEARNING STYLES

- Visual/spatial
- Bodily/kinesthetic

DURATION: Week long lesson plan

OBJECTIVES

- To describe nature they can see in their area
- To acquire research experience, online and through research books the life of John Burroughs and read some of his writings
- To acquaint students with historical sites, such as the home of John Burroughs
- To show history's interdisciplinary connections

PROCEDURE

1. Direct discussion with students about nature they have noticed around their homes
2. Explain naturalist writing and how John Burroughs who was the most remembered naturalist
3. Instruct students to use classroom computer and library to research biography of John Burroughs using the site <http://www.johnburroughs.org/>
4. Provide each child with a different John Burroughs' essay from the 23 volume collection of works called *Riverby Edition*
5. Have each child summarize his or her essay for the class and how it is an example of naturalism in Burrough's writing.
6. Visit the historical site of the home of Burroughs, Riverby, in Ulster County; discuss how this setting may have affected Burrough's style. Children should make notes of nature seen at Riverby, which will then be used to write their own

descriptive piece on nature and world around them as naturalists did for homework.

7. Have students share their naturalist works with the rest of the class, if time allows.

ASSESSMENT

Students can be formally assessed according to effort in research, participation in discussion, and completion of their own naturalist work.