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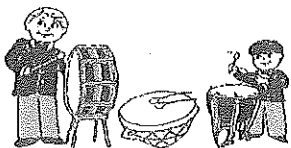
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Meet the Author of "Walden"

# A 'Thoreau' Life



"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer."

— Henry David Thoreau

Have you ever heard that someone "marches to a different drummer"? What does that mean?

Henry David Thoreau (thu-ROH) was a writer in the mid-1800s. He had some unusual ideas about how each person should act as part of a larger world. He "heard a different drummer."

The Mini Page looks at this important American whose ideas are still affecting others.



"All change is a miracle to contemplate; but it is a miracle which is taking place every second."

— Henry David Thoreau

Often we are impressed only by big changes. But in nature, things are always changing. We just don't always pay attention.

## Family

Henry was born in 1817 in Concord, Mass. He had two sisters and a brother.

Henry's older sister, his father and an uncle all died from tuberculosis (tu-ber-cu-LOS-is), a disease of the lungs. Henry died from this disease when he was only 44.

His family owned a small pencil-making factory. Experts believe dust from the factory may have made it harder for family members to fight off the tuberculosis.



This picture shows Henry David Thoreau when he was about 39.

"Be not simply good; be good for something."

— Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau is saying it's not enough to just stay out of trouble. We need to try to make things better.



## Growing up

Henry's family hated slavery. His family's house was part of the Underground Railroad, a system that helped slaves flee north to freedom. Henry helped hide runaway slaves.

Like many men at that time, he started college when he was 16. Henry went to Harvard College. He studied literature and language.

"Nothing is so much to be feared as fear."

— Henry David Thoreau

Our own fears can make things much worse than they are.



## Early hardships

After college, Henry began teaching. But he quit after two weeks when he was told to hit the students who misbehaved.

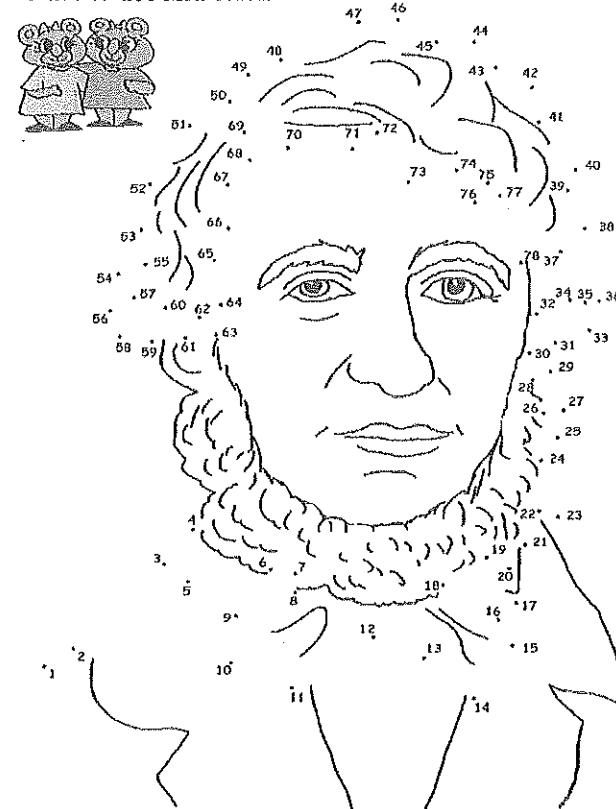
He started his own school. He and his brother, John, ran it together. However tragedy struck after about three years. His brother died of tetanus after cutting his finger. He died in Henry's arms.

Henry was so upset that he developed symptoms of tetanus himself, even though he did not have the disease. He could not get out of bed for a month, and his family thought he was going to die too. It took him a year to get better.



Henry David Thoreau went to Walden Pond in Massachusetts to find healing and comfort.

Go dot to dot and color:



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## Rookie Cookie's Recipe Bananutty Muffins

This makes a healthy breakfast treat or after-school snack.

You'll need:

- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas (2 medium bananas)
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup fat-free sour cream
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange muffin liners in muffin pan.
2. Mix flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl.
3. In a separate bowl, combine mashed banana, sugar, sour cream, egg, vanilla and cinnamon.
4. Stir banana mixture into flour mix until just combined. Add chopped pecans. Spoon into prepared muffin pan.
5. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes until done. Makes 10 to 12 muffins.

\*You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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## Meet Morgan Taylor



Morgan Taylor is an illustrator, songwriter and singer. He created an animated character, Gustafer Yellowgold, that he uses in videos. Morgan has also made several CDs.

He grew up in Dayton, Ohio. By the time he was 13 he was getting jobs making art. When he was a teenager, he also began singing in several different music groups.

When he was out of school, he drew his character Gustafer Yellowgold for a picture book he was working on. Gustafer is a creature who came to Earth from the sun.

Morgan ended up turning the character's story into a video. He showed it when he performed with his band. He wrote the music to go along with the video.

He now plays with different bands. He lives in New York City. He teaches music to kids and presents animation and music workshops in different schools.

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## Goldie Goodsport's Report Supersport: Danielle Scott-Arruda



**Height:** 6-2 **Birthdate:** 10-1-72 **Hometown:** Baton Rouge, La.

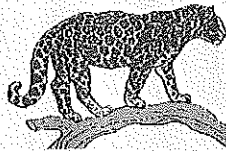
For Danielle Scott-Arruda, the Olympic flame never seems to flicker out. Neither does her competitive fire. The 35-year-old USA volleyball team veteran will be competing in her fourth consecutive Olympics in 2008 after helping the Americans qualify once again this year.

Scott-Arruda joined the USA International team in 1994 and became one of the premier middle blockers in the sport. In the 2007 World Cup she also led the USA in attack percentage (.464).

Before launching her distinguished international career, Scott-Arruda was a three-time All-American and a national Player of the Year at Long Beach State. Her pre-match ritual includes listening to inspirational music and eating some chocolate! Away from the court, and when she isn't traveling around the world, Scott-Arruda likes to check e-mail, read, and spend time with her husband.

After completing her athletic career, she wants to develop her foundation, Believer in You, to promote education, arts and sports. On and off the court, her motto is: "Whatever you do, give 100 percent, find something positive in each situation, and smile through the difficult moments."

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"In Wildness is the preservation of the World."

— Henry David Thoreau

Nature is what will protect the Earth.

## Walden

Henry needed a peaceful place to recover after his brother's death. He was also seeking a life of simple living. He wanted to reduce his needs to as few as possible. This gave him time to do the things that were most important to him: writing, observing nature and protesting slavery.

Henry said he wanted to think carefully about all the choices he made. He did not want to find that when it was time for him to die, he had not fully lived.

Henry built a cabin at Walden Pond and moved in. He stayed there for more than two years. During this time he wrote a book in memory of his brother. He wrote in his journal every day.

Later, he finished a book about his thoughts at Walden Pond. He actually cut out parts of his journal and pasted them onto his "Walden" manuscript.

# Walden Pond



photo by Michael Prosser, courtesy The Thoreau Society

One of Henry's earliest memories was of a picnic he went on with his family when he was about 4 years old. They had picnicked at a pretty area about a mile from Concord called Walden Pond.

## "Life in the Woods"

Henry David Thoreau's book "Walden, or Life in the Woods" became one of the most important books in American history.



In "Walden," Henry described the beauties of nature. He realized nature is a creation in itself and it does not center around humans.

In "Walden," he urged people to act as individuals, to be independent. He criticized the importance people place on material things.

"The question is not what you look at, but what you see."

— Henry David Thoreau

Do you really see what you are looking at?  
Do you pay attention?

## Seeking balance



Henry did not become a hermit at Walden. His cabin was right off the main road, and people visited often. He wrote that he always tried to be a good neighbor. He also visited his mother.

# Thoreau's Influence

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"Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also in prison."

— Henry David Thoreau

If a country is jailing innocent people, then

good people will protest this, even if they end up in jail too.

## Civil disobedience

Henry was part of a group of people who wrote about their belief that there is more to human beings than our bodies. There is a human spirit, too.

He believed that being a good person was more important than being a citizen. He thought that people should disobey laws that they believe to be wrong. But he also realized they could be punished for this disobedience.

To protest slavery, Henry refused to pay one of his taxes for years. Finally, while he was living at Walden Pond, he was arrested, and spent a night in jail.

He was protesting against a human and civil rights problem.

He did not say people should use these methods, for example, to protest against homework!

Henry went on to write about fighting peacefully against bad laws. This essay was called "Civil Disobedience."

Henry later supported the actions of John Brown, who fought slavery with violence.

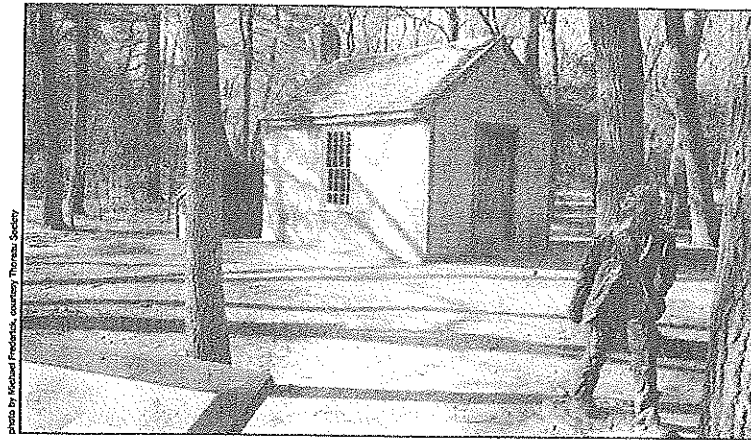


Photo by Michael Frederick, courtesy Thoreau Society

This statue shows Henry David Thoreau walking near a replica of his cabin at Walden Pond. He walked about four hours every day.



"Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes."

— Henry David Thoreau

Henry had a sense of

humor, too. Part of his belief in keeping things simple was to avoid anything he did not really need.

## After Walden Pond

Henry was not able to make a living by his writing. He supported himself by lecturing and by surveying land, or taking measurements of it. His surveying allowed him to work outside, which he loved. He wrote about nature throughout his life.

His work about how forest trees grow became one of the most important writings about nature.



"The world rests on principles."

— Henry David Thoreau

It is people's beliefs in right and wrong that allow humans to get along in the world.

## His work lives on

Henry David Thoreau's writings have influenced some of the top leaders of the world. U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. designed his nonviolent protests after reading the work of Thoreau.



Vietnam War protesters in the 1960s were influenced by Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience."

Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy both wrote that Thoreau had guided them.

Experts call Thoreau the father of the environmental movement.

John Muir, a founder of the Sierra Club, an environmental group, was moved by Thoreau's words.



Look at the stories and ads in your newspaper. Do you believe Thoreau would think people are too worried about material objects today? Why or why not?

Next week The Mini Page is about primary election season.

## The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Contributing Editor   Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor   Lucy Lien - Associate Editor   Wendy Daley - Artist

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# MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

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All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Greg: What type of poetry do aliens enjoy?  
Giselle: Universes!



Gordon: What is a bed's favorite poetry?  
Gary: Blanket verse!

Ginger: Which poet always finishes his work completely?

Gillian: Henry David Thorough!



Basset Brown  
The News  
Hound's

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## THOREAU

TRY TO FIND

Words that remind us of Thoreau are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: WALDEN, POND, WRITER, CIVIL, DISOBEDIENCE, DIFFERENT, DRUMMER, CONCORD, NATURE, INFLUENCE, SIMPLE, LIFE, CABIN, LAW, PROTEST, TAX, JAIL, ENVIRONMENT, WALK, INDIVIDUAL.

LISTEN TO YOUR DRUMMER!



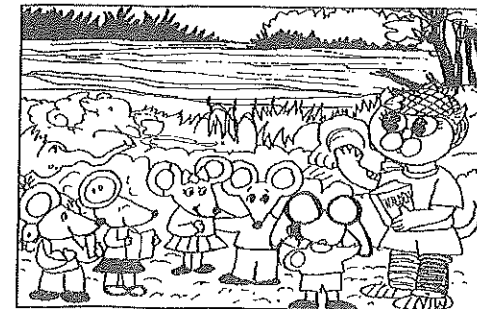
C V L E C N E I D E B O S I D  
J I R E T I R W R E M M U R D  
W A V C X A T D R O C N O C W  
A C I I L A U D I V I D N I A  
L A L L L B P T S E T O R P L  
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N N E F I L T N E R E F F I D  
D N O P T N E M N O R I V N E

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## Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy and the Alpha Mice are visiting Walden Pond. See if you can find:



- lamb
- letter C
- eyeglasses
- fish
- snake
- spool of thread
- lips
- two chickens
- button
- word MINI
- teapot
- elephant
- number 8