

Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center's
Wilderness Investigations
High School

Wilderness Hero #1
Arthur Carhart

Common Core Standard Connections

Standards addressed will vary depending on how the teacher chooses to approach the lesson and/or activities.

Instructions for the teacher:

Arthur Carhart, the focus of *Wilderness Hero #1*, was one of the key visionaries in the movement to preserve wilderness in our country. He was a true patriot looking out for the good of others and keeping an eye on the future.

To help students get to know Arthur Carhart, choose one or more of the following:

- Photocopy and hand out *Wilderness Hero Sheet #1* to each student.
 - Have them read it and then write 3 - 5 questions (and their answers) based on the written material.
 - Have each student or team of students create a *Wilderness Hero Quiz* based on the Arthur Carhart information.
- Use the handout as the basis for a short mini-lesson about Arthur Carhart.
 - If possible, take students outdoors for the lesson and enjoy some of the natural sights and sounds he would have enjoyed were he with you.
- Discuss the term HERO with your students and then, based on the information provided here, help students discover reasons they might consider Arthur Carhart to be a wilderness hero.
- Based on the handout, have students write a paragraph or create a concept web focused on Arthur Carhart.
- Have students study and then place their copy of *Wilderness Hero #1* in a Wilderness Investigations Folder.
- Create a *Wilderness Hero* classroom display or post on class website.
 - Have students create illustrations, maps, descriptive words, etc. that tell the story of Arthur Carhart.

Wilderness Hero #1
Arthur Carhart
1892 - 1978



Introduction to a Hero

Arthur Carhart was born in Iowa in 1892. He had an eye for special landscapes. His college degree was in landscape architecture and the U.S. Forest Service hired him as their first full-time landscape architect. From the beginning of his new career in Colorado's White River National Forest he kept his eyes focused on wild places. He spent his entire life, both in and out of government service, working for the ideal of wilderness. Mr. Carhart died in 1978.

Here's a special story from his early days in the Forest Service:

One of Carhart's first assignments was to survey a road around Trappers Lake in the White River National Forest in Colorado, and to plot several home sites on the lakeshore. Carhart completed the assignment, but recommended to his supervisor Carl Stahl that no development be permitted on the shore. Instead, he strongly urged the best use of the area was for wilderness recreation. This was a bold suggestion for such a young employee and Carhart was quite surprised when Stahl endorsed his recommendations. In 1920 Trappers Lake was designated as an area to be kept roadless and undeveloped. It remains so to this day. That designation marked the first application of the wilderness preservation concept in Forest Service history. (from www.wilderness.net)

Other heroic wilderness actions:

- Arthur wrote one of the earliest Forest Service documents referring to wilderness, in a letter to Aldo Leopold, another *wilderness hero*. He wrote:

There is a limit to the number of lands of shoreline on lakes; there is a limit to the number of lakes in existence; there is a limit to the mountainous areas of the world, and... there are portions of natural beauty which are God-made, and.. which of a right should be the property of all people.

- Worked to protect what is now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota.
- Through his 80's he continued to write about and work for the ideal of wilderness.



**Hikers in Eagles Nest Wilderness
White River National Forest; Colorado**
(from wilderness.net; Image #1962)

