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| Name: |  |
| Date: |  |

## Purpose

## The famous environmentalist John Muir once wrote: *“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.”* What do you think he meant? How might it apply to your life? This activity will help you think about your place in the Universe and how your life might be connected to the lives of many others.

## Process

1. Pair up with a partner and each take out a piece of paper and a pen.
2. On your own, take a few minutes to jot down your responses to these questions:
   * What’s one way your life is connected to another species on planet Earth?
   * What’s one way you’re connected to the Universe beyond Earth?
   * What’s one connection you have with something in the past?
   * Finally, write down one connection you share with another person (past or present, near or far) that might surprise your classmates.
3. Share your ideas with your partner. If their ideas make you think of some new connections, jot them down on your list.
4. Finally, as a pair, write an answer to the question:
   * *Why begin a course in human history before humans existed?*
5. Share your answer with the class.