



FAMOUS AUTHORS

# HENRY DAVID THOREAU

His Journal

## Journal

In 1837, Ralph Waldo Emerson suggested that Thoreau should keep a journal. Thoreau started it on November 13, 1837 and would write in it almost every day for the next twenty-four years. His journal would end up being about two million words long. Most of his books, essays, and lectures began as journal entries.

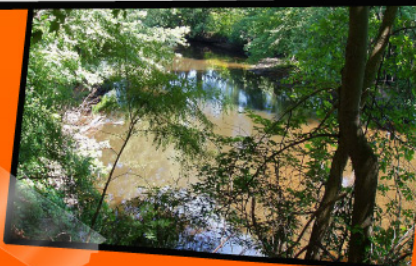


## Writer

Thoreau was never very successful as a writer. He once wrote a book called *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. His publisher printed 1000 copies, but did not sell very many. When the publisher needed more space, he asked Thoreau what he should do with all the unsold books. Thoreau had them sent to him, 706 copies in all. In his journal Thoreau would write, "I now have a library of nearly nine hundred volumes, over seven hundred of which I wrote myself."

## Concord

Someone once asked Thoreau if he had traveled much. "Yes," he said, "around Concord." Thoreau believed he could see the whole world just by getting to know the place he lived better. He would spend his whole life writing down every detail of life in and around his hometown. In his own mind, Henry David Thoreau had indeed traveled the world.



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