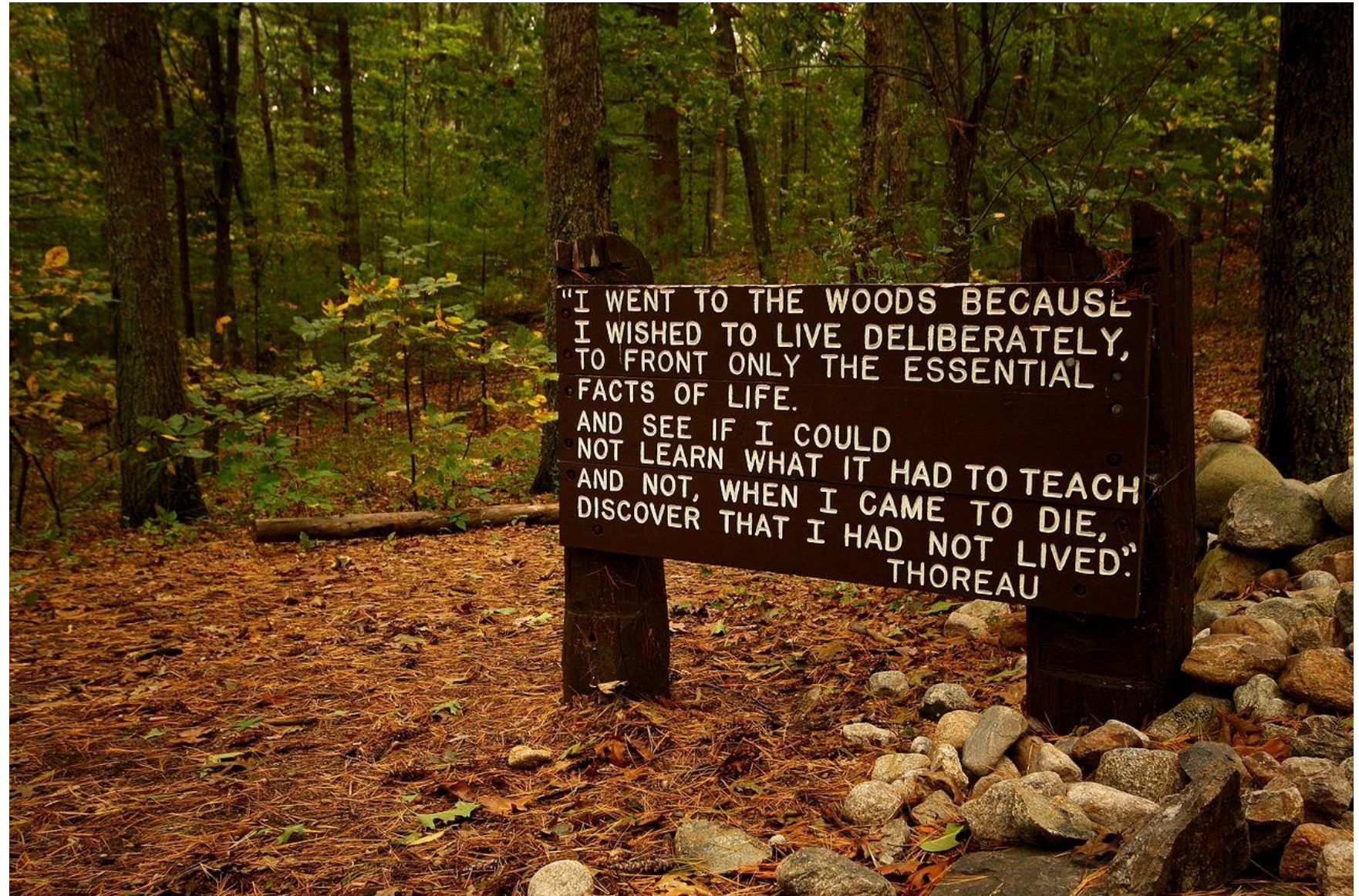


Station #1: Sign of quote from Thoreau's "Walden"

Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau went to live in a small cabin in the woods at Walden Pond...for TWO WHOLE YEARS.

According to this quote, why did Thoreau go to the woods? Analyze this 2-sentence quote piece-by-piece. Dissect it! Consider every word, and explain this in full detail.



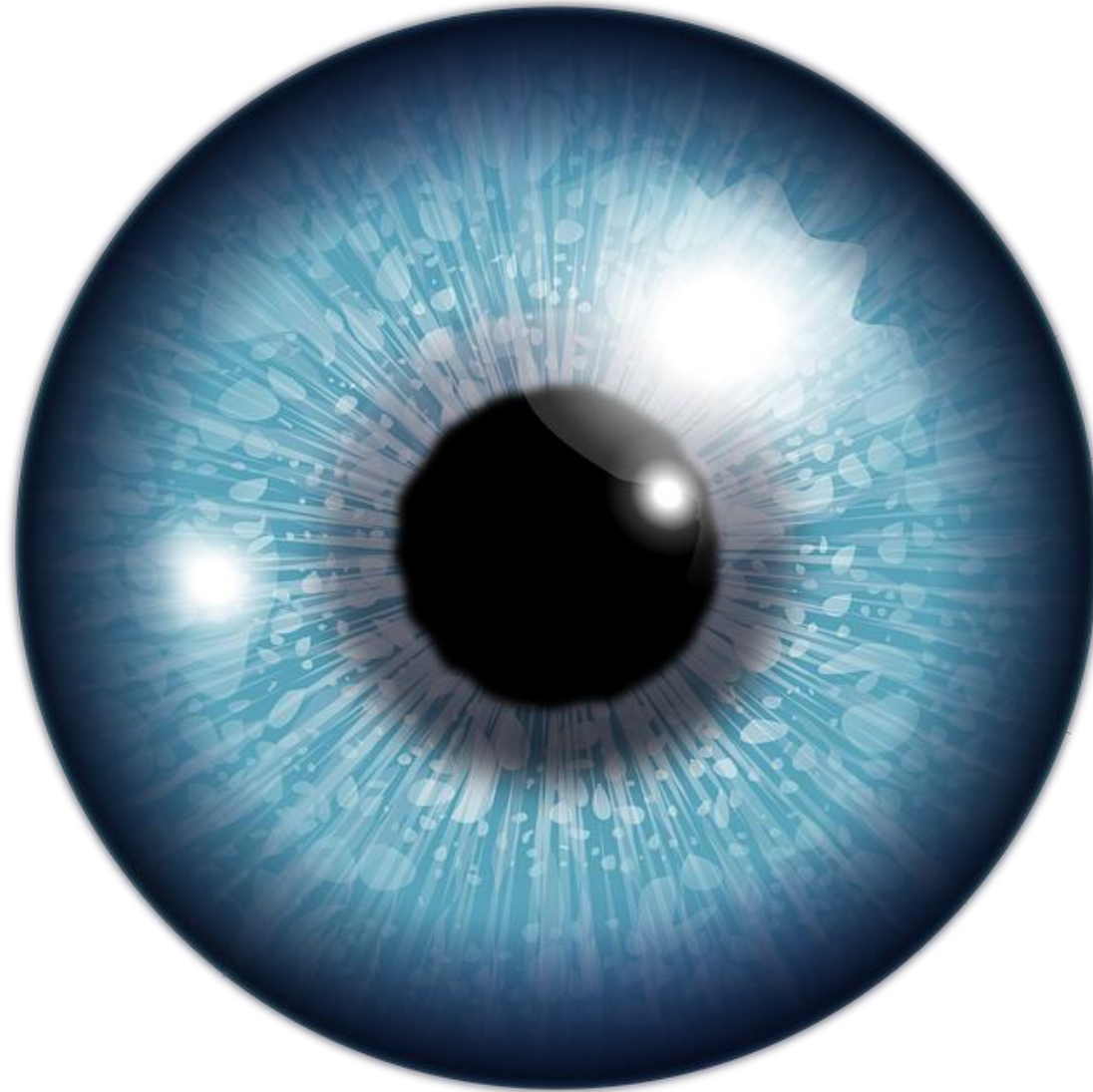
Station #2: Quote from Emerson's "Self-Reliance"

Transcendentalist
Ralph Waldo
Emerson speaks
much of "great
men" in his essay
"Self-Reliance." Think
about what he
means by this quote.
Then, explain one
historical or modern
individual who
embodies this quote.
Explain the
connection, proving
you understand the
quote and can
apply it.

“TO BE
great
IS TO BE
MISUNDERSTOOD”

Station #4: The “transparent eye ball” metaphor

In this excerpt from “Nature,” Emerson discusses his philosophical “transparent eye ball” metaphor. It’s complicated. So read and re-read, and then explain what the heck he means by this metaphor. Finally, create your own metaphor to describe how you feel in nature.



“In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life, -- no disgrace, no calamity (leaving me my eyes), which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground, -- my head bathed by the blithe air and uplifted into infinite space, -- all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part and parcel of God...I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty...In the tranquil landscape, and especially in the distant line of the horizon, man beholds somewhat as beautiful as his own nature.”

-Emerson’s “Nature”

Station #5: Thoreau misquote...get it right!

After considering both quotes, answer the following:

What does Thoreau's full version offer that the simplified version does not? Explain. What does Thoreau mean by the last sentence (of the full version)? Explain.

This is a popular "misquote" often attributed to Thoreau.
"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

What he really said (in "Walden") was the following:
"I learned this, at least, by my experiment; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours ... In proportion as he simplifies his life, the laws of the universe will appear less complex, and solitude will not be solitude, nor poverty poverty, nor weakness weakness."