

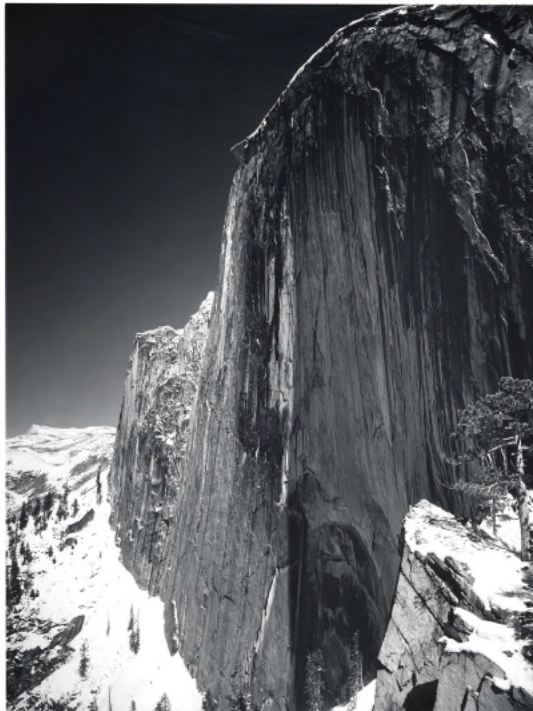
SPOTLIGHT ANSEL ADAMS

Into the Wild

Ansel Adams photographed
America's natural landscapes

Ansel Adams's
best friend took
this photograph
of the artist
and his camera.

Cedric Wright, Ansel
Adams on top of Pacific,
Yosemite Valley, 1942.
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Ansel (AN-suhl) Adams (shown at left) is one of the most celebrated American photographers of the 20th century. Countless museum collections contain his iconic photographs of our country's vast landscapes and, even today, the public clamors to buy prints and posters of his work. How did a young man from San Francisco develop into such an important artist? It all started with a family vacation.

Childhood Explorer

Born in 1902, young Ansel was a curious, energetic child. He enjoyed collecting insects and, much to his family's dismay, thought his dresser drawer was the perfect place to store them. Ansel had difficulty in school, so for several years his family homeschooled him. His education included trips to museums and exhibitions, as well as explorations of San Francisco and the sand dunes near his home.

In 1915, when he was 14 years old, a book called *In the Heart of the Sierras* changed Ansel's life. He was fascinated to read about the grand Yosemite (yoh-SEM-ih-tee) National Park, home of the Sierra Mountains. The boy convinced his parents to take him there on vacation the following summer. It was there that young Ansel took his first photographs with a Kodak Box Brownie camera. The trip ignited his lifelong love of capturing the outdoors on film.

Looking back on his youth, Adams wrote, "I knew my destiny when I first experienced Yosemite." Adams took many of his most iconic photographs, including his 1940 work *Jeffrey Pine, Sentinel Dome, Yosemite National Park, California*, cover, in Yosemite.

The Artist's Vision

At first, Adams took simple **snapshots**, creating a visual journal of his hikes through the woods. As he got older, Adams learned the technical side of photography,

How did Adams use his technical knowledge of photography to create this image?

Ansel Adams, *Mariposa, the Face of Half Dome, Yosemite National Park*, ca. 1927. Collection Center for Creative Photography, The University of Arizona. ©2016 The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust.