

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER



Early Life

- ▣ James Fenimore Cooper was born on September 15, 1789 in Burlington, New Jersey.
- ▣ He was the eleventh child of twelve, and his parents were William and Elizabeth.
- ▣ When he was one his family moved and started a town on the frontier of New York.
- ▣ The town was dubbed Cooperstown after the family.

Schooling

- ▣ James attended boarding school in Albany for his majority of his education.
- ▣ After boarding school he went to Yale, but was expelled due to him doing a prank.
- ▣ After his expulsion he became a midshipman in the navy.

Claim to Fame

- ▣ James Fenimore Cooper is most famous for his writings.
- ▣ He wrote such works as *Last of the Mohicans*, and *The Deerslayer*.
- ▣ His wife is the inspiration behind the works.
- ▣ She bet him he could not write a better book than she was reading. He won the bet.

Cooper as a Reformer

- ▣ Cooper is the first major American Novelist.
- ▣ He was the first American writer to write about Native Americans seriously.

Last of the Mohicans

- ▣ *The Last of the Mohicans* is the most famous book that Cooper wrote.
- ▣ It was the most popular book of the time and was very widely read.
- ▣ It was transferred into almost all languages in Europe, and a few in Asia.

Cooper in Politics

- ❑ Cooper had many of his ideas in his book criticized by the Whig party.
- ❑ He went to court several times and won all of his cases.

Legacy

- ▣ Cooper has a long lasting legacy.
- ▣ He is still a very famous writer, and *The Last of the Mohicans* is a very popular movie.
- ▣ Some of his writings helped to have Americans realize that Native Americans are equal.

Fun Facts

- ▣ Cooper was expelled from Yale for training a donkey to sit in a professors chair, or blowing up another students door.
- ▣ Cooper had a large inheritance from his father that just got larger when his brothers died.