



Native American Oral Tradition

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The origin of American Literature

- The origin of what we call American literature predates the arrival of Europeans in the America
- Literature of Native Americans not recognized by Western Society as literature until 1800s when oral traditions were written down for the first time
- Oral tradition is the **foundation** of literature
- Examples: folklore, myths, ballads, songs, chants, ect.

Myths & Folklore



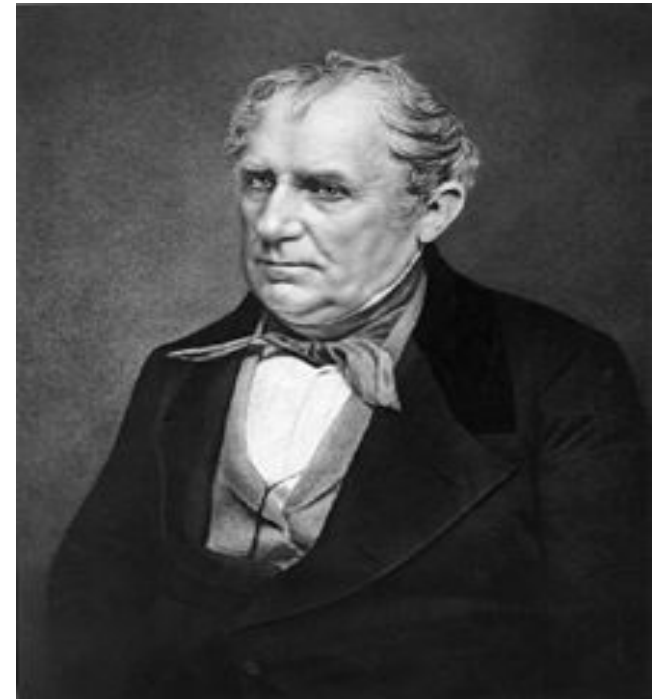
Purposes of Native American Literature

- Teach a moral lesson
- To explain the unexplainable
- To preserve the history and culture of the particular tribe
- Convey a practical message about the world
- To illustrate the necessity of balance between humanity and the natural world

James Fenimore Cooper

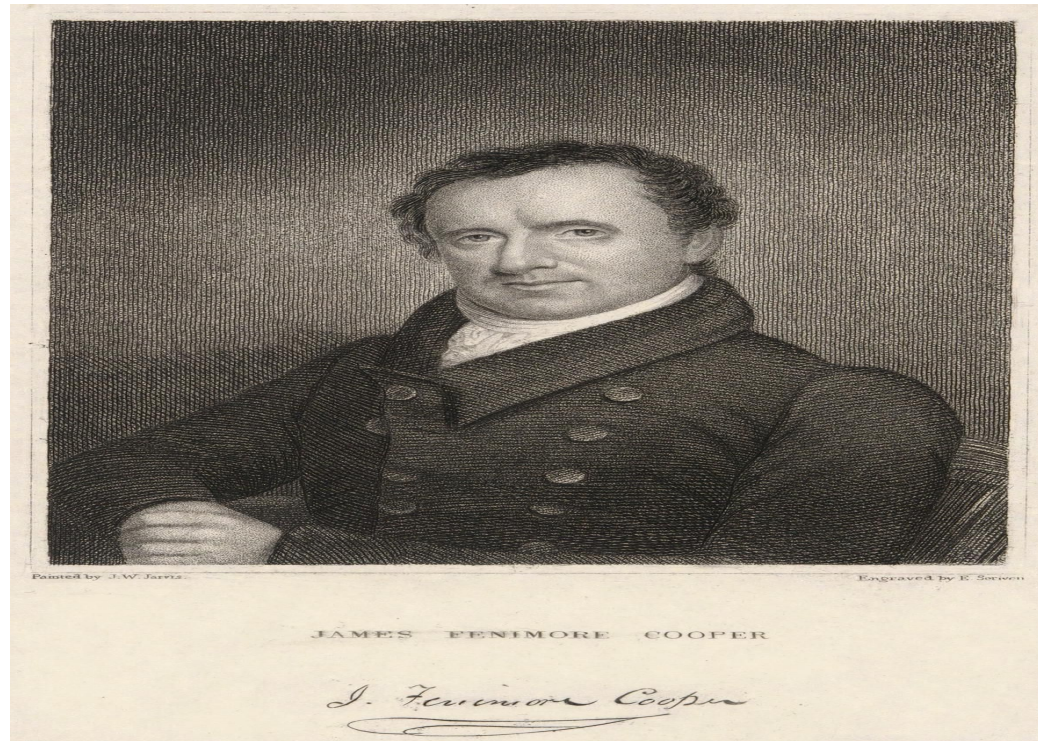
He was a pioneer of American literature and the **first writer** to popularize the American West.

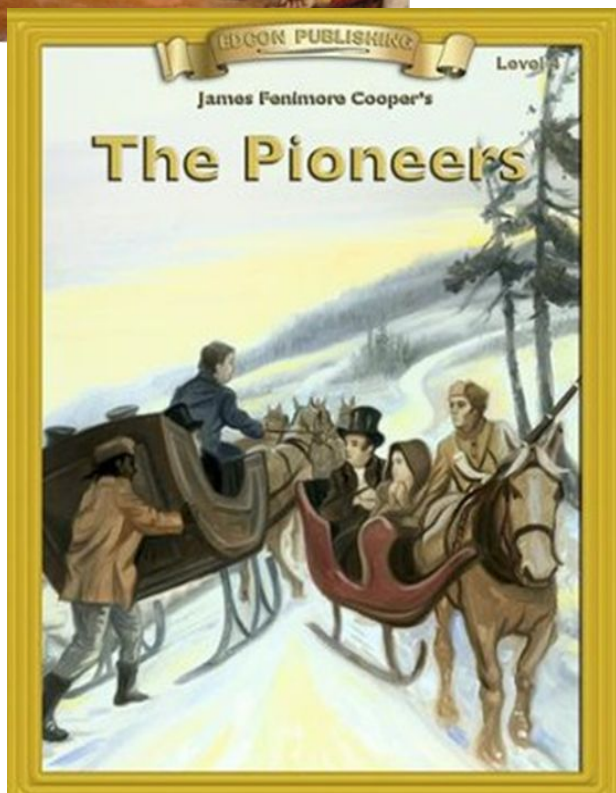
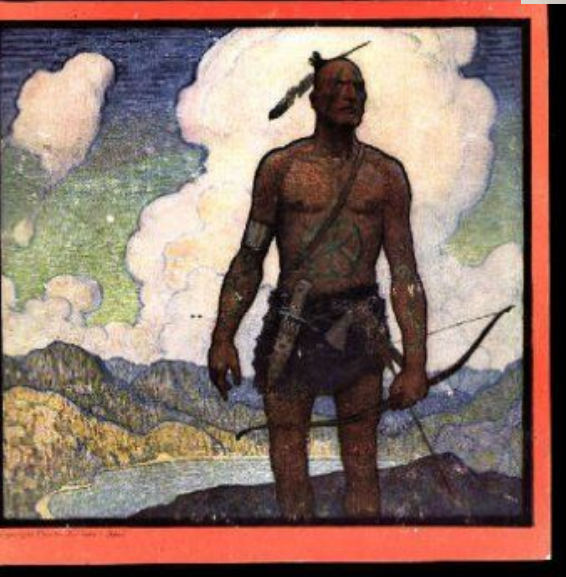
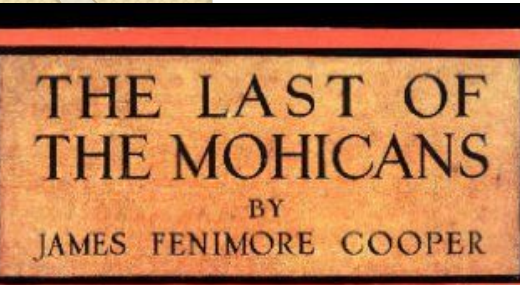
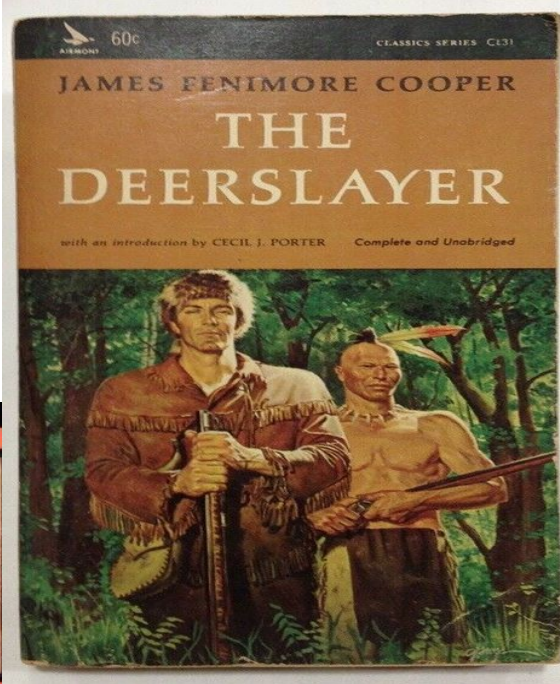
His historical romances depicting colonist and Indigenous characters from the 17th to the 19th centuries created a unique form of American literature.



The works of James Fenimore Cooper

- Cooper published his books over the course of a little more than three decades, **from 1820 to 1851**.





Fenimore Art Museum





Thank you for your attention!