

## American Art and Literature

Before 1800, most painters studied in Europe, but as the century wore on, American's began to develop their own styles and inspirations. Poetry began to express the dreams and goals of American democracy while authors began to write stories with American themes. These individuals are just some of the many who impacted the culture and landscape of 19th century America and gave Americans a sense of the richness of their past.

<b>Artists</b>		
<i>Hudson River School</i>	The first group of American artists who began to develop their own style	
Thomas Cole Asher B. Durand	Painted vivid landscapes of the Hudson River Region	New York
Rubert S. Duncanson		
George Caleb Bingham	Frontier life along the rivers that fed the Mississippi	Missouri
George Catlin	Traveled to the Far West to draw/record the lives of Indians on the Great Plains and the Rockies	
Alfred Jacob Miller		
<b>Poets</b>		
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Favorite Poet of Americans in the mid-1800s. Based his poems on important events of the past, including "Paul Revere's Ride" and "The Song of Hiawatha"	
John Greenleaf Whittier	Spoke out on social issues, especially Slavery.	Quaker from Mass.
Frances Watkins Harper		African American woman from Maryland
Walt Whitman	Published one book of poems, <i>Leaves of Grass</i> , but added to it over 27 years. Had faith in the common people and celebrated democracy. He wrote of being part of a "nation of many nations."	
Emily Dickinson	Write 1700 poems; only 7 were published during her lifetime. Considered her poetry her "letter to the world that never wrote to me" she is considered one of our nation's greatest poets.	Shy
<b>Authors</b>		
Washington Irving	First became famous for a collection of stories called <i>The Sketch Book</i> . Now, more known for writing <i>Rip Van Winkle</i> and <i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i> . First American writer to enjoy fame in Europe.	New York
James Fenimore Cooper	Set his stories in the past; very exciting novels. <i>The Deerslayer</i> , <i>The Last of the Mohican's</i> are two of his more famous works. Through his stories, he idealized the relationship between Native Americans and white settlers on the frontier.	

Herman Melville	Published <i>Moby Dick</i> . Not very well-received when published but now considered one of the best American novels.	
Nathaniel Hawthorne	Drew on the history of New England as he wrote <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> and other stories. Explored Puritan notions of sin and salvation, of an all-consuming guilt.	
William Wells Brown	One of the first African American's to earn his living as a writer. <i>Clotel</i> .	
<b>Transcendentalism</b>		
In New England, a small group of writers began to emerge calling themselves <b>transcendentalists</b> , believing that truths in live transcend (go beyond) human reason. Value emotions over reason. They believed each individual should live up to the possibilities within and supported social reform.		
Ralph Waldo Emerson	Leading transcendentalist. Most popular essayist and lecturer of the time, discussing character, self-reliance, and the reflection of the human spirit in nature. He stressed <b>individualism</b> (the importance of each and every individual). Discussed each person's "inner light" and urged them to use it to guide their lives and improve society.	"Trust thyself. Every heart vibrates to that iron string."
Henry David Thoreau	Friend and neighbor of Emerson. Believed that the growth of industry and the rise of cities were ruining America; he urged citizens to live simply and close to nature. In his most famous work, <i>Walden</i> , he describes spending a year alone in a cabin on Walden Pond in Massachusetts. Believed each individual must decide what is right or wrong.	<b>Civil Disobedience</b>
What is <b>Civil Disobedience</b> ? It is the idea that people have the right to disobey unjust laws if their conscience demands it. Thoreau once went to jail for <i>refusing to pay taxes to support the Mexican War, which he felt promoted slavery</i> . Thoreau's writings on civil disobedience and non-violence influenced Ghandi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.		