

## Fenimore Cooper's literary works

The “Leatherstocking” tales are Cooper’s great imperfect masterpiece.

The unifying thread of the five novels collectively known as the *Leather-Stocking Tales* is the life of Natty Bumppo. Natty Bumppo, the child of white parents, grew up among Delaware Indians. In adulthood, he is "six feet tall in his moccasins, thin and wiry, with grey eyes, sandy hair, a large mouth and rather heavy eyebrows, a fearless warrior skilled in many weapons, chiefly the long rifle. He is most often shown alongside his Mohican foster brother Chingachgook. He is just kind-hearted, adroit and resourceful. He says that all men are brothers irrespective of the colour of their skin. He regrets the instruction of civilization. Protesting against it he prefers to live far from the cities, in the woods or prairies. The Indians with whom he is on friendly terms are spiritually closer to him than the white civilized Americans. When he became an old man he joined one of the Indian tribes and died there.

"**The Last of Mohicans**" is considered to be Fenimore Cooper's best novel. The book truthfully reproduces the historical events and the spirit of the time, tells much about the Indians.

It is a historical and philosophic narrative reflecting the problems and conflict which touched Cooper's contemporaries.

The title of the novel gives quite a definite understanding as to the fate of the Indians. *The Last of the Mohicans* became one of the most widely read American novels of the 19th century.

The story tells of brutal battles with the [Iroquois](#) and their French allies, cruel captures, narrow escapes, and revenge. The beauty of the unspoiled wilderness and sorrow at its disappearance, symbolized in Hawkeye's [Mohican](#) friends, the last of their tribe, are important themes of the novel.

On the whole, The Last of the Mohicans is an unadulterated adventure story, with heroes attempting to chase down a dastardly villain with a penchant for kidnapping. What set the novel apart from many other novels featuring a similar kind of an adventure story are its historical backdrop and its characters.

### Answer the questions

1. What family does Natty Bumppo come from?
2. What does he look like?

3. What is he like?
4. Why does he prefer to live far from the cities?
5. What does he book "The Last of Mohicans" reproduce?
6. What are important themes of the novel?
7. How does the novel differ from other adventure stories?