

# **James Fenimore Cooper**

**1789-1851**

## **Task 1. Read the text**

Fenimore Cooper was a prolific and popular American writer of the early 19th century. His historical romances of frontier and Indian life in the early American days created a unique form of American literature.

The readers of the whole world first of all connect his name with his books about Indians, though he wrote over 30 novels, some of them historical and some of them about traveling.

Fenimore Cooper was born in a family of a well-to-do landlord. He entered the University but failed his third year, and then he served in the US navy. After that he settled down in his family estate.

His first novel "The Spy" was a great success. Then he wrote "The Pioneers", the first of the five romances of the «Leather-Stocking Tales" which include "The Last of Mohicans", "The Prairie", "The Pathfinder", "The Deerslayer". The cycle was named after its main hero Natty Bumppo, Leather Stocking.

The novels bring to life frontier America from 1740 to 1804. Cooper's novels portray the successive waves of the frontier settlement: the original wilderness inhabited by Indians; the arrival of the first whites as scouts, soldiers, traders, and frontiersmen; the coming of the poor, rough settler families; and the final arrival of the middle class, bringing the first professionals-the judge, the physician, and the banker. Each incoming wave displaced the earlier: Whites displaced the Indians, who retreated westward; the "civilized" middle classes who erected schools, churches, and jails displaced the lower-class individualistic frontier folk, who moved further west, in turn displacing the Indians who had preceded them. Cooper evokes the endless, inevitable wave of settlers, seeing not only the gains but the losses.

## **Task 2. Answer the questions**

1. What books do the readers of the whole world connect the name of Fenimore Cooper with ?
2. What do Cooper's novels portray?