

A New National Identity

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. American writers created a new style of literature.
2. A new style of art showcased the beauty of America and its people.
3. American ideals influenced other aspects of culture, including religion and music.
4. Architecture and education were affected by cultural ideals.

Key Terms and People

Washington Irving one of the first American writers to gain international fame

James Fenimore Cooper perhaps the best known of the new American writers

Hudson River school a group of artists whose paintings reflected national pride and an appreciation of the American landscape

Thomas Cole a landscape painter who was a founder of the Hudson River school

George Caleb Bingham an artist whose paintings showed both the American landscape and scenes from people's daily lives

Section Summary

AMERICAN WRITERS

Americans expressed their thoughts and feelings in literature and art. They took spiritual comfort in religion and music. The strengthening national identity was shown in education and architecture.

Washington Irving often wrote about American history. He cautioned Americans to learn from the past and prepare for the future. He often used a humorous style of writing called satire. In "Rip Van Winkle," one of his most famous short stories, Irving expresses his idea that Americans must use past lessons to deal with the future.

James Fenimore Cooper wrote about characters who lived on the frontier, including Native Americans. By placing some characters in historical events, he popularized historical fiction.

What was Irving's message?

Section 3, continued

A NEW STYLE OF ART

The works of Irving and Cooper inspired painters. By the 1830s the **Hudson River school** had appeared. **Thomas Cole** portrayed the American landscape's unique traits. Other painters followed his lead. **George Caleb Bingham** created a painting that shows the rough lives of western traders as well as the landscape.

How did Bingham depict the West in his paintings?

RELIGION AND MUSIC

Religious revivalism fanned out across America through the early and mid-1800s. Leaders met with large crowds to reawaken religious faith. People sang songs known as spirituals at revival meetings. Spirituals are a kind of folk hymn from both white and African American music traditions. Popular folk music showed the unique views of the nation. "Hunters of Kentucky" honored the Battle of New Orleans. It was used successfully in the presidential campaign of Andrew Jackson in 1828.

How were spirituals important for religious revival meetings?

ARCHITECTURE AND EDUCATION

In pre-Revolution America, most American architects modeled their designs on the style used in Great Britain. After the Revolution, Thomas Jefferson said that Americans should base their building designs on those of ancient Greece and Rome. Many architects agreed with Jefferson and used Greek and Roman styles.

Americans also found education important. In 1837 Massachusetts set up a state board of education. Other states followed Massachusetts and started their own education systems.

Why did Jefferson want Americans to change their styles of architecture?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Elaborating Would you prefer to be a writer or a landscape artist? Make a choice, and either write an essay describing the western American landscape in the 1800s or draw a picture of it.

Section 3, *continued*

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

_____ 1. One of the first American writers to gain international fame was Thomas Cole.

_____ 2. James Fenimore Cooper wrote about the West and the American Indians even though he never saw the American frontier.

_____ 3. A group of artists called the Hudson River school got their name because many of their paintings showed the Hudson River valley.

_____ 4. Washington Irving painted *Fur Traders Descending the Missouri*—a painting that shows the rugged lonely lives of traders in the West.

_____ 5. James Fenimore Cooper was the leader of the Hudson River school.

_____ 6. Historical authors, such as Catharine Maria Sedgwick, created interesting heroines.

_____ 7. James Fenimore Cooper published novels such as *The Last of the Mohicans* and *The Pioneers*.

_____ 8. Washington Irving used a humorous form of writing called satire to warn Americans that they should learn from the past and be cautious about the future.
