

**Teacher's Guide For
Great American Authors Since 1650
Program 1: 1650 - 1845**

For grade 7 - College

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<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table of Contents and Rights.....	2
Links to Curriculum Standards.....	2
Materials in the Program.....	2
Instructional Notes.....	3
Introduction and Summary of the Program.....	3
Summary of Program 1: 1650 – 1845.....	4
Answers to Blackline Master Quiz 1A.....	5

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LINKS TO CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The design for this program was guided by the National Center for History in the Schools, United States History curriculum Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation-Standards 1 and 3 for grades 5-12, Era 9 Postwar United States -Standard 4 for grades 5-12, and the California Public School Standards for Historical Content, Grade 8 - Standards 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 (#4 - #7), Standard 8.8 (#1) and Grade 11, Standards 11.1 (#2, #3), 11.3 (#5), 11.5 - (#3, #4) and 11.10 (#2, #3) and Grade 12, Standards 12.1, 12.4 and 12.5; and the California State Board of Education English Language Arts Grade 8, Section 3.0 – 3.5 Literary Response and Analysis; Grades 9 and 10, Section 3.0 – 3.5 Literary Response and Analysis; and Grades 11 and 12, Section 3.0 – 3.5 Literary Response and Analysis.

MATERIALS IN THE PROGRAM

Teacher's Guide -This Teacher's Guide has been prepared to aid the teacher in utilizing materials contained

within this program. In addition to this introductory material, the guide contains the following:

- *Suggested Instructional Notes*
- *Student Learning Goals*
- *Test Questions on Blackline Masters Quizzes for duplication and handout to students.*
- *Gallery of Great American Authors*

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

It is suggested that you preview the program and read the related Student Goals and Teacher Points. By doing so, you will become familiar with the materials and be better prepared to adapt the program to the needs of your class. Please note that this show is set up to be played continuously and you will probably find it best to follow the program in the order in which it is presented, but this is not necessary. The program can be divided into chapters accessed through the DVD's Menu Screen under Chapter Selects. It is also suggested that the program presentation take place before the entire class and under your direction. As you review the instructional program outlined in the Teacher's Guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, deletions, or additions to fit the specific needs of your students. After viewing the program you may wish to copy the **Test Questions on Blackline Masters 1A Quiz**, and distribute them to your class to measure their comprehension of the events.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

A DVD of Great American Authors Since 1650 Program One: 1650 - 1845 is a new approach to presenting in an exciting way the great literary tradition of the United States. The program is designed to present American authors and literature in a way that promotes successful student learning. The program begins by tracing the underpinnings of American literature in the colonial era with America's first poet, Anne Bradstreet and other colonial authors. It then follows the growth of American literature as the new nation's authors developed a distinctive American voice at the beginning of the 19th century.

The program is laid out so that it can be viewed in its entirety, or by individual chapters accessed through the DVD's Menu Screen under Chapter Selects. Each chapter presents a complete story of an exceptional American literary figure, as well as themes of American literature, including the unique and innovative American voice, New England authors, women authors, ethnic authors; and poets. The chapters show how American authors told the story of America as its chroniclers and interpreters. Most importantly, historical themes and figures are clearly presented using state of the art visuals.

Below is a list of the program and its chapters. Using this program, teachers can create a lesson plan to cover the specific issues, themes and historical figures mentioned.

Great American Writers Since 1650

Program 1: 1650 - 1845

1. 1650 - Anne Bradstreet, America's First Poet
2. 1702 - Cotton Mather Publishes *The Ecclesiastical History of New England*
3. 1773 - Phillis Wheatley Becomes America's First Black Woman Poet
4. 1819 - Washington Irving Publishes *Rip Van Winkle*
5. 1826 - James Fenimore Cooper Publishes *The Last of the Mohicans*
6. 1836 - Ralph Waldo Emerson Initiates American Transcendentalism with *Nature*

7. 1845 - Edgar Allan Poe Publishes *The Raven*

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM 1: 1650 - 1845

Program one examines the beginnings of America's great literary legacy from the New England colonies to the first years of the new nation.

Chapter one looks at Anne Bradstreet, America's first poet and the first writer to demonstrate the emerging woman's voice in American literature.

The importance of Cotton Mather's *The Ecclesiastical History of New England* is discussed in chapter two.

Chapter three examines America's first black poet, Phillis Wheatley, and her impact on shaping the American female literary voice.

Chapters four and five showcase Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper, who drew upon their experiences in the United States for American themes in their stories.

Chapter six shows how Ralph Waldo Emerson established American Transcendentalism and with it the American ideal of success for every man and harmony with nature.

An American original, Edgar Allan Poe's unique literary style is examined in chapter seven.

1650 - Anne Bradstreet, America's First Poet

Student Goals - In this segment of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Anne Bradstreet was Colonial America's first poet
- Bradstreet was the first of many Puritan women to embody the independent spirit of American women
- Bradstreet was the first to show a new voice in literature, an American voice

1702 - Cotton Mather Publishes *The Ecclesiastical History of New England*

Student Goals - In this segment of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- The book was a history of the first 50 years in New England
- Its author, Cotton Mather was the first American to be recognized as a Renaissance man
- Mather was a Puritan, but he drew upon the experience of living in the new world to shape an American version of Christianity that differed greatly from his Calvinist forebearers and the Church of England
- He wrote 450 Books on a wide range of subjects

1773 - Phillis Wheatley Becomes America's First Black Woman Poet

Student Goals - In this segment of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Black slaves were first brought to England's colonies in 1619
- Phillis Wheatley was a black slave owned by the Wheatley family in Boston
- The power of Phillis Wheatley's poetry made her free
- Phillis Wheatley was a forerunner of American poetry

1819 - Washington Irving Publishes *Rip Van Winkle*

Student Goals - In this segment of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Washington Irving's works heralded American literature awakening to the possibility of its own unique artistic expressions

- Washington Irving was one of an early group of people who were the first to be born American
- Irving saw beauty in nature as a substitute for European man-made glories and found symbolism in America's fast-paced social and ideological evolution
- America now had something important and unique to write about

1826 - James Fenimore Cooper Publishes *The Last of the Mohicans*

Student Goals - In this segment of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- James Fenimore Cooper would paint an enduring portrait of Native Americans
- *The Last of the Mohicans* is one of a series of books called *The Leatherstocking Tales*
 - They presented frontier life in the new United States
 - In the series, the hero evolved in name from Natty Bumppo to Hawkeye to Deerslayer
 - He is a distinctively American hero--the backwoodsman whose knowledge of Indian lore, marksmanship with a rifle and homey wisdom mark him as a true American invention

1836 - Ralph Waldo Emerson Initiates American Transcendentalism with *Nature*

Student Goals - In this segment of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature* signaled the introduction of American Transcendentalism
- A new spiritual movement for Americans
- A movement steeped in a mystical appreciation of nature and America's unblemished wilderness
- A movement that would be reborn as the Environmental Movement a 150 years later
- Because the U.S. was unfettered and natural, Emerson saw nature itself as a powerful, all encompassing divinity flowing through everyone and everything
- In his essay, *The American Scholar*, Emerson wrote eloquently about man's connection to the divine
- 19th century writers such as Poe, Dickinson and Whitman would establish a purely American form of literature, free from European influences

1845 - Edgar Allan Poe Publishes *The Raven*

Student Goals - In this segment of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Edgar Allan Poe was America's first truly great writer
- Poe was best known for his poems and short stories
- Poe's poetry and prose contained an apocalyptic sense of doom but he combined this with the romantic innocence of childhood
- Poe's poetry and prose contained an apocalyptic sense of doom but he combined this with the romantic innocence of childhood

Answers to Blackline Master Quiz 1A, Great American Authors Since 1650, Program 1: 1650 - 1845

1-c; 2-d; 3-b; 4-a; 5-d; 6-b; 7-c; 8-a; 9-d; 10-c; 11-c; 12-a