

## Viewing Guide for *The Last of the Mohicans*



This video presents a Romantic or *idealized* view of early America. Author James Fenimore Cooper wrote about the French and Indian War in 1826, more than 65 years after it had ended, comparable to writing about WW II today. He used the war as a backdrop for scenes of greatness: great courage, great treachery, and great love.

Your task is to select one aspect of the film and trace how that aspect has been presented as better than it really was. Choose one of the topics listed below:

- Native Americans (esp. beliefs, abilities)
- Colonial America (esp. attitudes of colonists)
- Women (Compare/contrast Alice & Cora. How might both seem unrealistic?)
- Duncan (esp. love for Cora)
- Natural beauty of America (All those forests and no bears?)

As you watch the video, make a list of details that you suspect have been idealized or made unrealistically better than they were. When the video is finished, your task will be to consider what purpose Cooper might have had in romanticizing America's past.

The names of the characters are listed below so you can spell them correctly.

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**Hawkeye**, also called Nathaniel  
adopted Mohican

**Uncas**, his Mohican brother

**Chingachgook**, their Mohican father

**Cora Munro**

**Alice Munro**

**Colonel Munro**, also called "the Gray Hair"  
their father

**Major Duncan Heyward**, British officer

**General Webb**, British officer

**Magua**, Native American

**General Montcalm**, the French general

**John Cameron** and family  
friends of the Mohicans

**Jack Winthrop**  
civilian militia "leader"

the **Sachem**  
leader of the Huron Indians

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