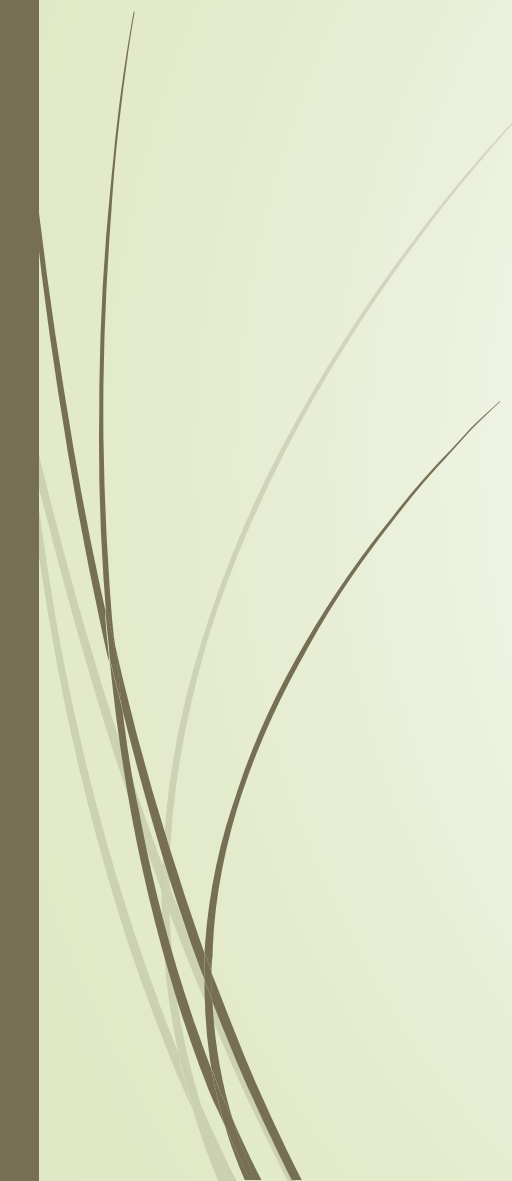




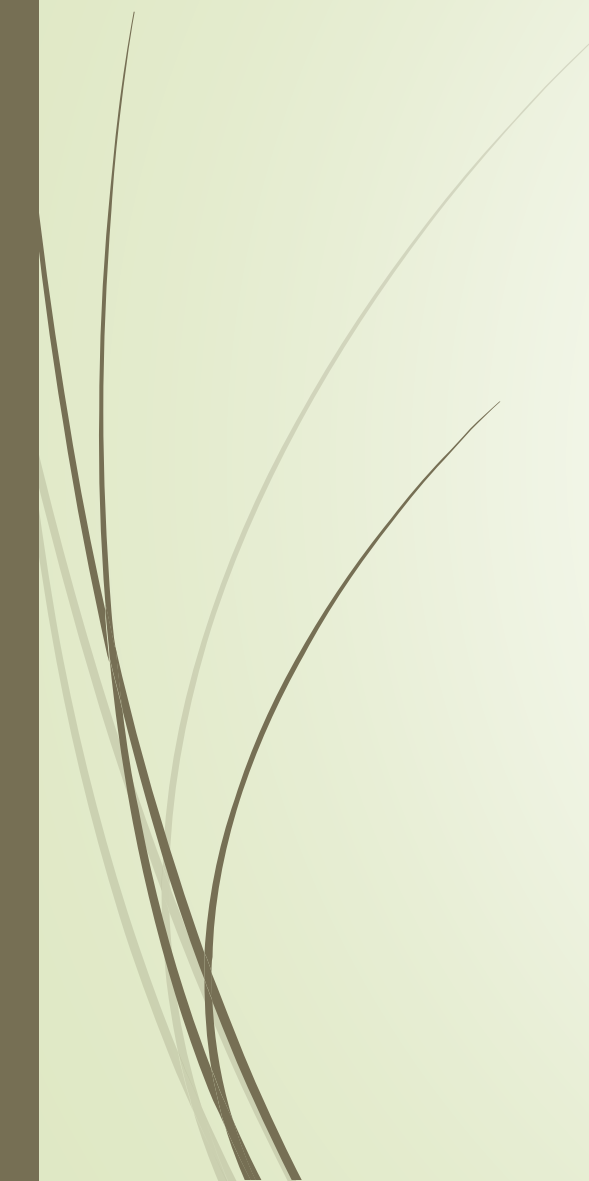


19th Century American Fiction

What is an American?



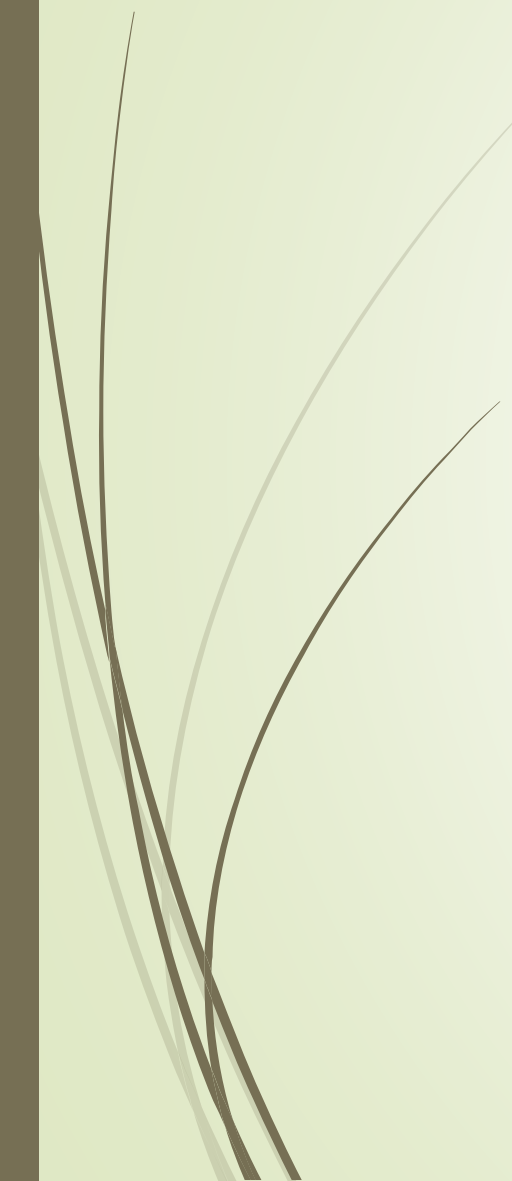

Anderson's definition of "nation" is the following: "Nation is an imagined political community – and imagined as both inherently limited and sovereign." Explain the words *imagined*, *limited*, *community*, and *sovereign*. Do you agree or disagree with his definition? Why?

- 
- 
- What is the importance of language when we talk about a nation?
 - Why was language a problematic concept in Europe in late 18th century?


Michel-Guillaume-Jean de Crèvecoeur

1735-1813






Here he (the Englishman) beholds fair cities,
substantial villages, extensive fields, an immense
country filled with decent houses, good roads,
orchards, meadows, and bridges, where a
hundred years ago all was wild, woody, and
uncultivated (545).



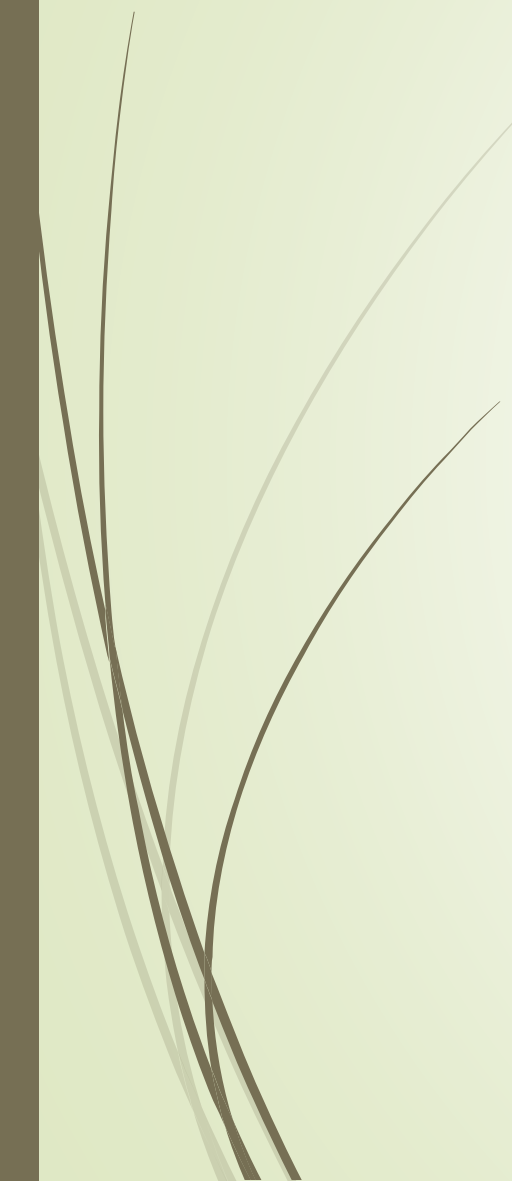
Describing America, differences between America and Europe

In America there are

- No lords
- No aristocracy
- No kings
- No bishops and ecclesiastical dominion
- No great manufacturers



Describing America, differences between America and Europe

- Mild government
 - People respect the laws (equal laws)
 - Each person works for himself
 - a parson as simple as his flock (545)
- 



“We are the most perfect society
now existing in the world”



Who can tell how far America
extends?



In this great American Asylum (546)...


The laws protect them as they arrive, stamping on them the symbol of adoption; they receive ample rewards for their labors; these accumulated rewards procure them lands; those lands confer on them the title of freemen (547).

Ubi panis ibi patria.



What is the American (according to Crèvecoeur)?

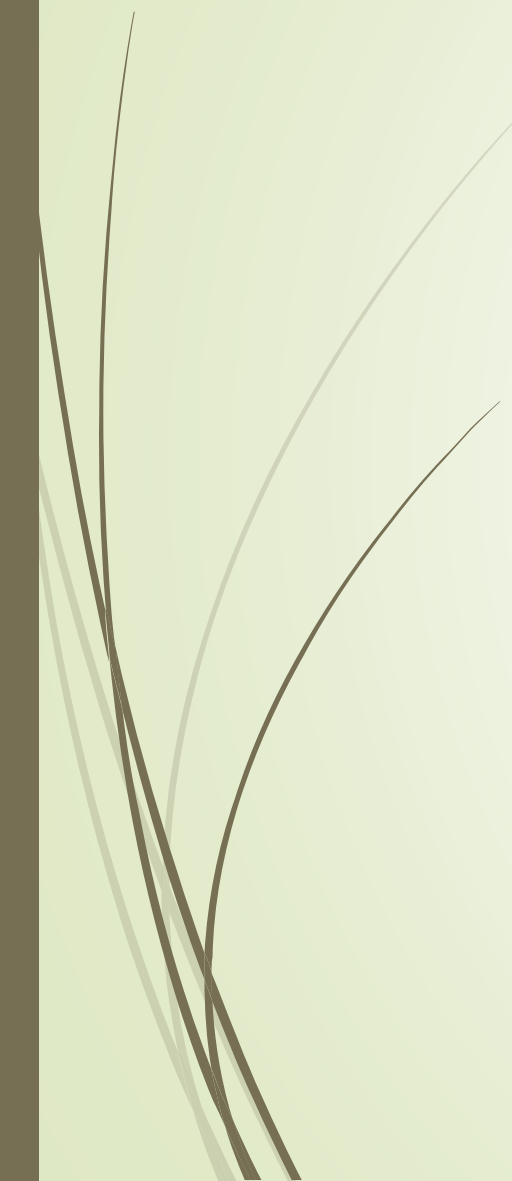
- A mix of (white) races
- A man rewarded for his labor
- Who keeps his faith for himself
- Who is transformed
- A new man, who acts upon new principles, has new ideas, and forms new opinions (547-48)



Men are like plants, influenced by the land, the climate, the government, the religion and the nature of our employment.

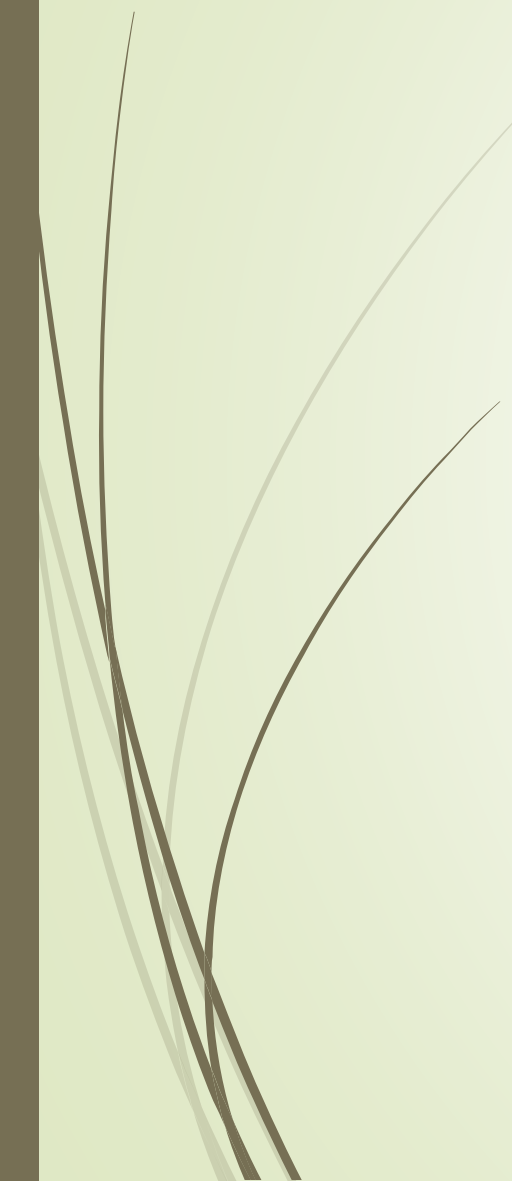


Types of American

- ▶ Those who live by the sea
 - ▶ Those who live in the forests
 - ▶ Those who live in the middle
- 

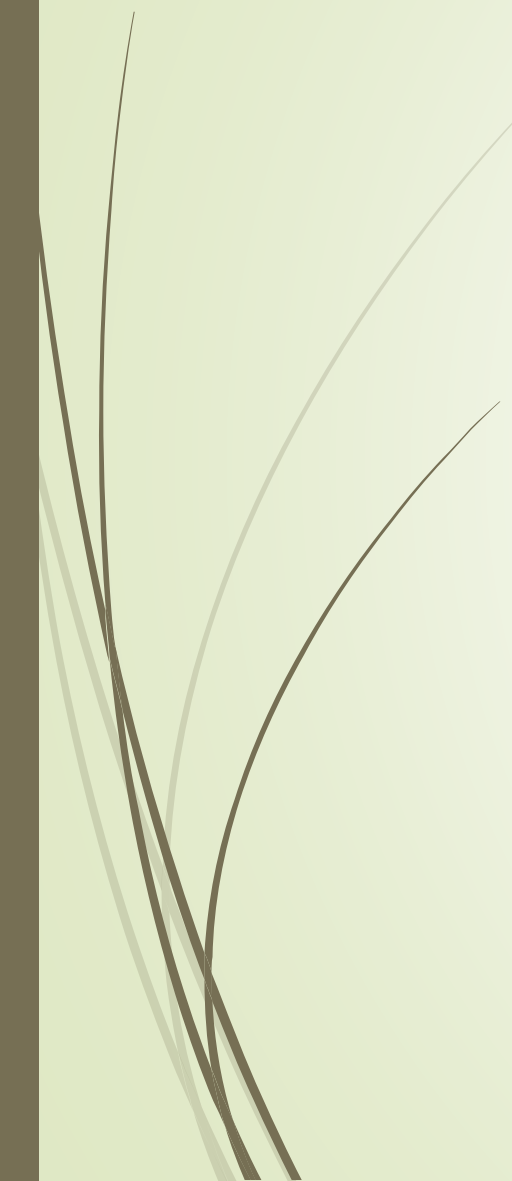


I. Those who live by the sea

- Feed on fish
 - Influenced by the sea
 - Bold and enterprising
 - Meet new people
 - Transport goods
- 

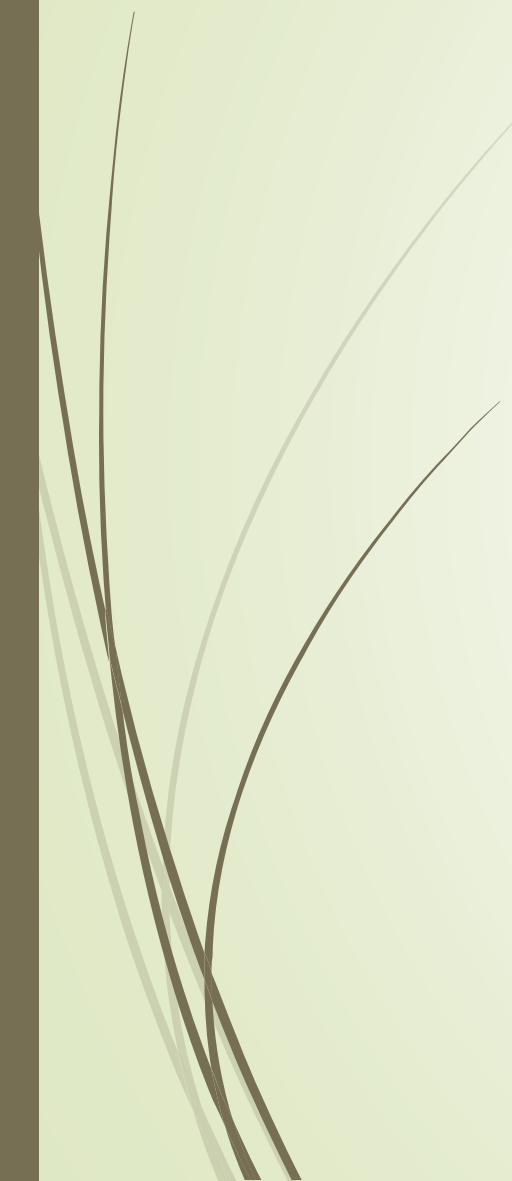



II. Those who live in the middle

- Much more in numbers
 - The cultivation of the earth purifies them
 - Interested in politics
 - Freely blame or censor governors
 - The laws inspect our actions, our thoughts are left to God.
- 



III. Those who live in the woods

- Driven by misfortune and necessities
 - From oppression to unlimited freedom
 - Men appear to be no better than carnivorous animals of a superior rank, living on the flesh of wild animals.
 - Gun in their hands
 - Army comes after 10-12 years
 - Some will prosper, some will move farther in (549-50)
- 



It is here then that the idle may be employed, the useless become useful, and the poor become rich; but by riches I do not mean gold and silver [...] I mean a better sort of wealth, cleared lands, cattle, good houses, good clothes, and an increase of people to enjoy them (555).



And now... another version of America

- Servants
 - Laws were more flexible for land owners
 - Poverty
 - Asylum
 - Revolutions
 - Three classes
 - Fear of the poor uniting with the slaves
- 