

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Life History

- Born and lived his life in Concord, Massachusetts
- Never Married
- Graduated from Harvard at 20 -- became a teacher
- Quit teaching because he would not inflict corporal punishment
- Lived with Emerson and his family (maybe in love with his wife)
- Lived for two years on Emerson's property at Walden in self-built cabin



Philosophies

- Abandoned material values -- wanted to "live" life rather than wasting it in earning a living.
- fought strongly against slavery
- refused to pay his poll tax to protest slavery and the Mexican-American War. He spent one night in jail.
- wanted people to re-evaluate their lives and values



Famous Works

1. "Walden," or Life in the Woods
 - journals of his stay at Walden
 - Filled with aphorisms and careful observations
 - Published 7 years after his stay
2. "Resistance to Civil Government" ("Civil Disobedience")
 - essay urging people to fight for what they believe to be true
 - inspired Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King

Short saying w/ message about life

http://wildlifeofct.com/websitesounds/loon_call.mp3