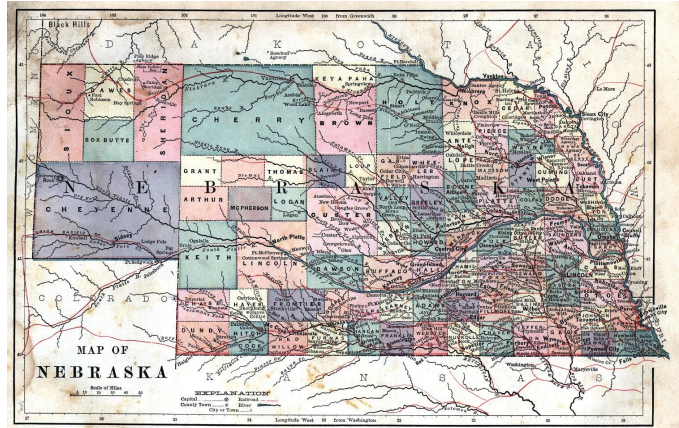


*The Loren Eiseley Reader Teacher's Guide*  
**Lesson**

**Loren Eiseley's Nebraska:  
Place-Based Lessons  
in Language Arts and  
Sciences**



**SUBJECTS: SCIENCE/ENGLISH**

**PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

Students will read one or more of four non-fiction essays in *The Loren Eiseley Reader* that are based in Nebraska: “The Flow of the River,” “The Running Man,” “The Letter,” and “The Last Neanderthal.” They will do individual and class activities that include working with vocabulary sheets, discussing and interpreting the essay(s) in class, writing response essays, and multi-media projects. Depending on time constraints and students’ interest, other activities are listed below for each of the essays.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 12th (could also be used with a Grade 11 Honors or AP course). Could also be used in grades 9-11, depending on level of sophistication

**CONNECTION TO THE CURRICULUM:** These lessons meet several curricular goals in writing, literature, communication, and technology, and integrates other disciplines such as biology, history, and geology into the language arts curriculum. Language arts areas include essay, non-fiction literature, photography, and technology (digital camera, Internet, PowerPoint, etc.)

**POSSIBLE STANDARDS:**

**COMPREHENSION:** Students will extract and construct meaning using prior knowledge, applying text information, and monitoring comprehension while reading grade-level text.

**LA 12.1.6.a** Evaluate the meaning, reliability, and validity of the text considering author’s purpose perspective, and information from additional sources.

**LA 12.1.6.g** Analyze, evaluate, and make inferences based on the characteristics of narrative and informational genres and provide evidence from the text to support understanding.

**LA 12.1.6.h** Critique the effects of historical, cultural, political, and biographical influences in a variety of genres.

**LA 12.1.6.1** Build and activate prior knowledge in order to clarify text, deepen understanding, and make connections while reading.

**LA 12.1.6.o** Respond to text verbally, in writing, or artistically.

**WRITING:** Students will apply the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit and publish writing using correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and other standard conventions appropriate for grade level.

**LA 12.2.1.** Students will apply the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writing using correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and other standard conventions appropriate for grade level.

**LA 12.2.2** Writing Genres: students will write or a variety of purposes and audiences in multiple genres.

**MULTIPLE LITERACIES:** Students will research, synthesize, evaluate and communicate information in a variety of media and formats (textual, visual, and digital).

**LA 12.4.1.a** Select and use multiple resources to answer questions and defend conclusions using valid information (e.g., print, subscription databases, web resources).

**LA 12.4.1.b** Demonstrate ethical and legal use of information by citing sources using prescribed formats and tools (e.g., online citation assistance, publication guidelines).

**LA 12.4.1.f** Gather and share information and opinions as a result of communication with others (e.g., video/audio chat, interview, podcast, multi-media presentations).

*Science-Nebraska*

“Science as Inquiry” Standard (Nebr Dept of Ed, 8.2), as well as other specific standards:

**6.3.2** students will know that plants and animals have unique structures that provide for their needs and enable them to live in different environments.

**12.4.4** students will investigate the structural, functional and behavioral adaptations of living organisms to the environment in which they live, including how food/energy is obtained, and unique survival mechanisms.

**INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES (Note: these objectives depend on the instructional activities selected):**

- 1) Students will learn about the life and work of Nebraska-born literary naturalist Loren Eiseley.
- 2) Students will respond to literature read in discussion groups and through writing.
- 3) Students will learn how to use mind mapping to analyze and interpret Loren Eiseley's essays.
- 4) Students will gain scientific knowledge and knowledge of historical events relating to places in Nebraska about which Loren Eiseley wrote.
- 5) Students will learn and practice research, data collection and presentation skills.
- 6) Students will learn how to generate questions for interviewing and how to interview.
- 7) Students will apply technology skills through use of software programs to create a final product.
- 8) Students will learn how to make oral presentations that consider audience, purpose and information.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- *The Loren Eiseley Reader* – Published by The Loren Eiseley Society, 2009. Classroom copies available for loan from the Loren Eiseley Society (contact Dr. Bing Chen through the Loren Eiseley Society's website, [www.eiseley.org](http://www.eiseley.org)) or from your ESU. Teacher's copy available at no cost.
- "Reflections of a Bonehunter" – 1994 NETV documentary on Eiseley's life and writing. A 60-minute DVD is available for loan from the Loren Eiseley Society. A shorter 24-minute version of the DVD can be viewed and downloaded from the LES web site ([www.eiseley.org](http://www.eiseley.org)). [Note: the 24-minute version is currently on the "members only" portion of the web site; it will be made public by spring 2010.]
- Computers with Internet capabilities
- DVD player
- Digital camera(s)
- Scanner
- Printer

## **SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

### **Books**

*Fox at the Wood's Edge* by Gale Christianson (optional teacher resource book for biographical information on Eiseley)

*Walden* by Henry David Thoreau

*Platte River Road* by Don Welch

*Mind Maps for Kids: An Introduction* by Tony Buzan – available on *Amazon.com*

### **Internet sites**

The Loren Eiseley Society:

<http://www.eiseley.org>

Loren Eiseley Wikipedia site:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loren\\_Eiseley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loren_Eiseley)

Bonehunter transcript from NETV:

[http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/nextexit/ghosts/bone\\_03.html](http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/nextexit/ghosts/bone_03.html)

Loren Eiseley's reflections on the Depression (from "Reflections of a Bonehunter" DVD):

<http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/nebraskastories>

Where I'm From Poem Template:

<http://www.swva.net/fred1st/wif.htm>

Essay Writing Strategies: Using Mind-Maps as a Tool:

<http://www.brighthub.com/education/homework-tips/articles/36418.aspx>

Sample Essay Mind Map:

<http://www.jcu.edu.au/office/tld/learningskills/mindmap/sampleessay.html>

UNL State Museum, Division of Anthropology and Nebraska Archaeological Survey (there is a photo gallery from a 10-week excavation project at a prehistoric hamlet near Loup City):

<http://www.museum.unl.edu/research/anthropology/anthro.html>

### **You Tube videos**

Archaeology: Science and Historic Preservation (length: 7:58 minutes). Video on the nature of archaeology as it pertains to both scientific inquiry and historic preservation.

Next Exit – Bone Hunter (length: 3:46 minutes). Edited excerpt from the 1994 NETV production of “Reflections of a Bonehunter.”

Wildcat Hills Nebraska State Recreation Area (length: 0:45 minutes).

Wildcat Hills SRA – Nebraska State Park (length: 1:14 minutes). Short video produced by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission that shows the Wildcat Hills landscape and Wildcat Hills Nature Center exhibits.