

Loren Eiseley Biography/Web Explore

GRADE LEVEL

Grades 7-12

SUBJECTS

English, Language Arts,

ESTIMATED TIME

One or two 50-minute sessions

*"How, among all the
wanderers, should I have
absorbed a code by which
to live?"*

OVERVIEW

This lesson is intended to be an introduction to Loren Eiseley and his writings. The activity asks students to practice research skills by exploring the website of the Loren Eiseley Society and the website "The Man from the Sunflower Forest" for biographical and thematic information about Eiseley. Finally, this activity is meant to provide material for a discussion about some of Eiseley's themes and the historical context in which he worked.

MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

This activity requires access to a computer and the Internet, and the ability to navigate those resources successfully.

PREPARATION

1. Arrange for students to have access to personal computers (with Internet) during most of the sessions of this lesson.
2. Make copies of all handouts and have all materials available for use.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

In this series of lessons, students will

- be introduced to the works of the writer and scholar Loren Eiseley, and

- practice researching and evaluating information in a variety of media formats.

PROJECT SEQUENCE

This project is ideal for either small group or large group discussion.

Some terms may need to be discussed in advance if working with younger students. For example, the terms *naturalist* and *anthropologist* are used, and the word *theme* is used.

Finally, here is a small pool of questions to possibly ask during discussion of the web explore:

- What questions do you have about Loren Eiseley? Is there anything you read that you didn't understand?
- What can you relate to in Eiseley's biography? What can't you relate to?
- Why did you choose the quote?
- What themes/big ideas does the quote suggest? What is Eiseley thinking about?
- Eiseley was a scientist. How are writing and science related?

Loren Eiseley
Introductory Web Explore

Directions: Go to www.eiseley.org and the website The Man From the Sunflower Forest to answer the following questions. The sections in bold can be found across the menu at the top of the main page.

Loren Eiseley Society Homepage

Homepage

1. Write down the pull-quote on the right hand side of the web page, and put the quote in your own words.



"I was fifty years old when my youth ended" . . .

"The Last Magician," p.188

Biography

2. Describe in your own words the place where Eiseley grew up (paragraphs 2 and 3). How do you think this affected his decision to become a naturalist and anthropologist?
3. In your own words, describe Eiseley's childhood.
4. FUN FACT: What was the maiden name of Eiseley's wife?

5. What was the title of his first book, and what ‘ability’ was he celebrated for with its publication?

6. When did Loren Eiseley pass away?

Bibliography

Write down the names of at least four of Eiseley’s works.

Directions: go to the website named **The Man from the Sunflower Forest** (you can find this under “Biography: Links” on the menu at the top of the page) and do the following activities:

Readings

Choose three of the sections under ‘Readings’, and below, write down a quote from each that you find interesting. Be prepared to share them with the class.

Quote #1)

Quote #2)

Quote #3)