

# *American Romanticism*



- A reaction to The Enlightenment/Age of Reason
- Growing tension between the North & South

# The Age of Reason / The Enlightenment

Founded on

- Deism - belief in the existence of a god on the evidence of reason and nature only, with rejection of supernatural revelation
- Logic
- Inalienable rights

It also brought

- Industrialization, growth of cities, and factories
- American expansion (Lewis and Clark and Manifest Destiny)
- More encounters with Native Americans

# Romanticism: a reaction to the Age of Reason

Age of Reason	Romanticism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Realism</li><li>• Patrician Classicism</li><li>• Dominion over the Native American</li><li>• Logic, always facts to counter fear and doubt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Idealism/Utopia</li><li>• Glorification of the common man</li><li>• Recognition of the nobility of the primitive – the “noble savage”</li><li>• Imagination to engender faith and hope</li></ul>

## The City was a Place of ...

- The Rationalists saw the city as a place of industry, success, self realization, and civilization.
- The Romantics saw the city as a place of poor work conditions, moral ambiguity, corruption, and death.



# The Journey

**Romanticism was often seen as a journey.**

- The journey from the city to the country
- The journey from rational thought to the imagination



Tenets of Romanticism

"PICIMINE"

# P is for Past

- fascination with the past

# I is for Individuality

- Individual at center of Life and Experience



# C is for Common Man

- Glorification of ordinary life

I is for Idealism

- rose-colored glasses

M is for

Mystery/supernatural

# I is for Imagination

- Romantic's value

Imagination over Reason

# N is for Nature

- Nature reveals truth

# E is for Emotion

- Literature is about emotion & feelings