



From **“Ishi in Two Worlds”**

Concept: Biography



Essential Question

How can reading a biography teach us a lesson about life?

A biography is the story of a person's life told by another person. Readers can learn lessons by examining the life experiences and background information about the subject.

Who is Ishi?



This selection is part of a biography about Ishi, a Native American from the Yahi tribe. When he mysteriously appeared on a ranch in California in 1911, people immediately became interested in this “wild man” because he was presumably the last of his tribe. He did not speak English, and he had never experienced modern society.

Author's Perspective

Perspective is the way of looking at or regarding a subject or topic.

This biography was written by Theodora Kroeber, the wife of the anthropologist who knew and studied Ishi.

How do you think her background, knowledge, and opinions shaped her telling of the events in Ishi's life?

Important Vocabulary

Match the words with the correct definition:

1. Emaciate
2. Unwonted
3. Groundless
4. Adjacent

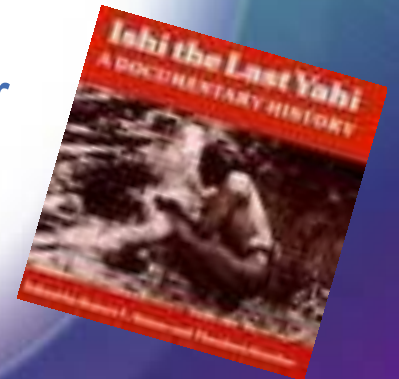
- A. Rare, unusual
- B. Next to, adjoining
- C. Cause to lose flesh and become very thin
- D. Not justified; having no real basis

Pre-Reading

Prior to reading this biography, imagine that you were in Ishi's place.

What thoughts and feelings might you experience as you wander into a new civilization not knowing anyone or speaking the language?

Jot down some of these ideas in your notes before reading the selection.



Biography

- Pay close attention to the details described by the author.
- Be sure to consider how the townspeople, the sheriff, and the anthropologist treated Ishi.
- Record your observations in your notebook.



“Yana People to Receive Ishi’s Brain”

PART 2—NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Science Connection

Turn to page 293 in your text.

Ultimately, what resulted from the National Museum of the American Indian Act of 1989?

Write this down in your notes.

Kroeber vs. Fri

Following our reading of the article “Yana People to Receive Ishi’s Brain,” compare the attitudes revealed in the Kroeber biography versus those presented in Fri’s article in your notes.

Kroeber	Fri

Life Lessons from Biographies

Specifically, what life lesson can be learned from the experience with Ishi?

Be sure to cite specific examples from the text to support why you made your choice of lesson.