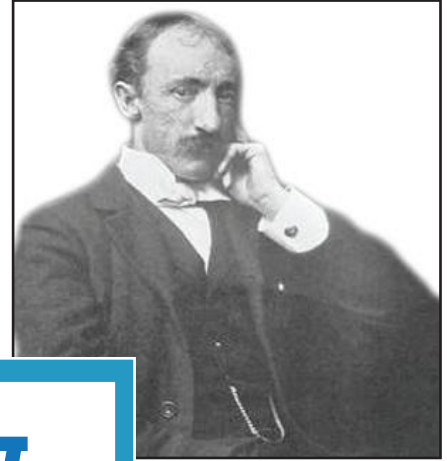


# Frank Hamilton Cushing

by Guy Belleranti

Frank Hamilton Cushing was a pioneer anthropologist. Born in Pennsylvania in 1857, Cushing was a white man who studied Native Americans as no one had before. He actually lived among the Zuni Tribe of New Mexico for several years. While doing so, he adopted their customs and learned their ways. In fact, he was one of the first people to live with the people he studied.



Cushing seemed to have a natural talent with the study of the people. He showed an interest in Indian artifacts while he was eight.

When he was 17, he was given the opportunity to explore. He was fascinated with the Indian artifacts he found. He even tried to reproduce arrowheads.

By the time Cushing was 17 he had published his first scientific paper. He followed this up with a brief enrollment as a student at Cornell University. More knowledgeable than his instructors, he became curator of an exhibition of Indian artifacts. Not long after this, the director of the Smithsonian Institution made a 19-year-old Cushing curator of the Ethnological Department at the National Museum in Washington, D.C. Now Cushing was in the big leagues of anthropology.

the science that deals with different groups of people and their relics and fossils.

opened new worlds for people who were fascinated with the past. He even taught himself to speak the language of those of the natives.

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In 1879, John Wesley Powell, a man already famous for his exploration of the Grand Canyon via the Colorado River, asked Cushing to be part of an expedition to New Mexico. The 22-year-old Cushing jumped at the chance.

During the trip, the group spent several months observing the Zuni Pueblo in the western part of the state. The Zuni are believed to be descendants of the Ancient Pueblo Peoples (or Anasazi) who lived in the desert southwest of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. Captivated by the living material he observed on this trip, Cushing requested and gained

At first, his sketches were not accepted by some Zuni people. However, after he had lived with Native Americans before, but his drawings were useful for future anthropologists. Cushing's work was something unique to white Europeans and cultures they draw from.

A great bond grew between them of his own culture while working to learn about their language and rituals. He also adopted their style.

In 1882, after the expedition returned, Cushing supported a small group of their leaders on a tour of the United States, crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

During this tour, Cushing was also married to a Washington D.C. resident. His wife accompanied him back to New Mexico, and the two lived among the Zuni for a time. However, in 1884, ill health and political reasons brought them back to Washington D.C. He was able to return for a bit two years later but ill health again brought him back east.

Cushing also conducted archaeological research in abandoned Indian villages in

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parts of Arizona. In 1890, he led an expedition to the Florida Keys. The expedition found thousands of artifacts revealing a society of Florida Indians that had built elaborate settlements on piles of seashells over the water.

Sadly, in 1900 at the age of 42 while on a research trip to Maine, Frank Hamilton Cushing choked on a fish bone and died. However, his achievements were many. He was a leader in 19th century anthropology.

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# Frank Hamilton Cushing

- 1) Cushing collected fossils and relics while he was eight, which shows he had a flair for anthropology at a very young age. Explore Cushing's anthropological journey as portrayed in this text.

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- 2) How are paragraphs

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- 3) Many scientists lived with the Zuni, but Cushing was different from them. What made Cushing's living with the Zuni unique?

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Name : \_\_\_\_\_

# Frank Hamilton Cushing

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- 4) Anthropology is the study of the origin and development of the human race. Make a small list of branches that comprise anthropology. List three aspects of anthropology.

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- 5) a) What does the passage tell you about the importance of anthropology?

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- b) Pick out three phrasal verbs from the passage.

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