

Whaling WebQuest Context for *Moby Dick*

Introduction

You are looking for a job in New England during the 1800s. Your best friend suggested that you get a job onboard a whaling ship in order to see the “watery part of the world” and check out the career for him/her. You need to bring back information for your friend so (s)he can decide on this career.

Task

Create a journal/scrapbook of your life onboard the whaling ship. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways including PowerPoints, word-processed journals, scrapbooks, or a combination thereof.

Process

Examine whaling as an industry in the 1800s in order to determine whether it is a good career path to follow. Your examination should address the following questions:

- What is the need that whaling is fulfilling?
- What is the availability of the resources (whales)?
- Why are the whales being hunted?
- What are the benefits? Downfalls?

Examine the process of catching a whale from tracking a whale to processing a whale to disposing of the waste.

Examine the daily life onboard a whaling ship in the 1800s. Your description should address the basic needs that people need to survive (food, health, sleep), duties onboard the whale ship (work/chores, navigation, communication with land), how you spend your free time (sleep, entertainment, hobbies), discipline problems, and finally, how sailors handle anyone who dies onboard.

Finally, examine the major parts of a whaling ship and how a whaling ship differs from a normal passenger ship or a merchant ship.

Keep track of all sources you use for your Works Cited page!

Resources

General Resources

<http://www.whalingmuseum.org/search/index.html>

http://www.provlib.org/ri_image/Whaling%20Collection/Sites/pages/specialcollections/nicholsonwhaling/index.html

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/conservation/lives.htm>

http://www.salariya.com/web_books/whaling/sleigh/sleigh.html

Sample Journals

<http://mysite.du.edu/~taylor/ploughboy/pbjournals.htm>

<http://mysite.du.edu/~taylor/ploughboy/pgtwoyearsbeforethemast.htm>

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/whaling.htm>

Industry

http://www.thegoldenbasket.com/nantucket_history.htm

<http://mysite.du.edu/~taylor/ploughboy/usdrwhalefisheries.htm>

<http://www.petroleumhistory.org/OilHistory/pages/Whale/whale.html>

<http://history1800s.about.com/od/whaling/f/whaleproducts01.htm>

Hunting and Tracking

<http://mysite.du.edu/~taylor/ploughboy/huntsman.htm>

<http://mysite.du.edu/~taylor/ploughboy/verrill.htm>

http://www.coolantarctica.com/gallery/whales_whaling/0001.htm

Daily Life

<http://www.thegoldenbasket.com/scrimshaw.htm>

Whaling Ship

<http://mysite.du.edu/~taylor/ploughboy/aboardaspermwhaler.htm>

Photos

<http://70.84.63.138/newbedphoto/default.asp?include=search1.htm>

Evaluation

Category	4	3	2	1
<i>Requirements</i>	All requirements met and/or exceeded	All requirements are met	Most requirements met.	Project is incomplete.
<i>Content</i>	Displays wide variety of content with specific details and examples.	Includes essential content with details and examples.	Includes basic content with limited details and examples.	Content is minimal.
<i>Application/ Understanding</i>	Content is analyzed and applied displaying a great depth of understanding.	Content is analyzed and applied displaying a moderate understanding.	Content is analyzed and applied displaying a basic understanding.	Content is rarely analyzed and applied, showing little or no understanding.
<i>Organization</i>	Content is well organized using headings or bulleted lists to group related material.	Uses headings or bulleted lists to organize, but the overall organization of topics appears flawed.	Content is logically organized for the most part.	There was no clear or logical organizational structure, just a lot of facts.
<i>Originality/ Creativity</i>	Project design displays vast creativity; expands the boundaries of the project.	Project design shows some original thought.	Project design is confined to basic parameters of the assignment.	Project shows no creativity. Project may display misunderstanding of the assignment.
<i>Writing Mechanics</i>	Displays excellent writing mechanics.	Contains some mechanical errors.	Contains numerous mechanical errors.	Mechanical errors render the project incomprehensible.

Conclusion

After completing this WebQuest, you should have a thorough understanding of the challenges of life upon a whaling ship in the 1800s. In one to two pages, analyze why people make decisions to take risky jobs like whaling. Your analysis should address the following questions:

*Why did people choose to go sea aboard a whale ship in the 1800s?

*What types of risky/dangerous professions exist today and why do people choose them?