

Maritime Life

American Whaling

- Native Americans would glean from beached whales
- colonists learned to do the same
- eventually, New Englanders decided to set sail to hunt whales
- cities like New Bedford, MA thrived on the whaling industry

Life of the Sailor

- for many, the maritime life offered an opportunity to make money
- for run away slaves, the sea was one of the few ways to remain free
- but life aboard ship was harsh, and many often sailed only one time

Sea Chanteys

- music was an important part of maritime life
- it passed the time
- but also served to set a pace for work

“Cape Cod Girls”

Cape Cod girls don't use no combs,
Haul away, haul away;
They comb their hair with a codfish bone,
And we're bound away for Australia.
So heave her up my bully, bully boys
Haul away, haul away;
Heave her up and don't you make a noise
And we're bound away for Australia.

Cape Cod kids don't have no sleds...They slide down hills on a cod fish head
Cape Cod cats don't have no tails...They lost 'em all in a Northeast gale
Cape Cod ladies don't have no frills...They're plain and skinny as a codfish gill

“Blow, Ye Winds In the Morning”

‘Tis advertised in Boston, New York and Buffalo,
Five hundred brave Americans a-whaling for to go.

Singing, blow, ye winds, in the morning,

Blow, ye winds, high ho!

Clear away the running gear,

And blow, boys, blow!

They take you to New Bedford, that famous whaling port,
And give you to some land shark to board and fit you out.

They tell you of the clipper ships a-going in and out,

And say you’ll take five hundred sperm before your six month out.

It’s now we’re out to sea, my boys, the winds come to the blow;

One half the watch is sick on deck, the other half below.

When our ship is full, my boys, and we don’t give a damn,

We’ll bend on all our stu’nsails and sail for Yankeeland.

When we get home, our ship made fast, and we get through our sailing,
a brimming glass around we’ll pass and damn the blubber whaling.

Scrimshaw









Rope-work



“Whaling in the South Atlantic”



