TEAM 5:
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THE HUDSON WHALING INDUSTRY

“A MARITIME PHENOMENON”

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Hudson whaling was a valuable industry during the early 1800’s. The whaling industry provided residents of the Hudson River Valley with a large supply of sperm oil among other products from the whales. This short lived but powerful industry opened up a new chapter of history within New York.
• The location was vital to Hudson whaling, as the Hudson River was “viewed by many as a catalyst for profit in the late 18th and 19th centuries (www.ulster.net).”

• The whaling industry was immensely successful in areas such as Hudson, as it is located about 110 miles from New York City and 120 miles from the sea. It had a prime location for ships to sail up the river from the Atlantic Ocean.
HISTORY OF HUDSON, NY

- Nantucket and Whaling
- American Revolution
- Seth & Thomas Jenkins
- Originally named Claverack Landing
HISTORY OF HUDSON, NY

TIMELINE:

- 1783: Land purchased ($100,000)
- 1784: Land settled and town grid plotted (34 families)
- 1785: Officially named as Hudson, NY
- 1786: Population of 1,500 individuals and 25 ships
- 1800: 32 ships built
- 1830: Hudson Whaling Company formed and 35 ships
- Mid 1800’s: Whaling industry begins to decline
- Today: Large into antiques

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LIFE IN A WHALING TOWN

• Whaling industry was established by Quakers from New England
• Claverack Landing was originally owned by the Dutch
• Whaling industry caused a cultural revolution
  - Rise of businesses
  - New and different goods
  - A more sophisticated life
LIFE ON A WHALE

- Demanding and dangerous work
- Out to sea approximately 75% of the time
- Unhealthy living conditions
  - Living quarters
  - Food preparation
ECONOMY AND THE WHALING INDUSTRY

- 1786- Over 1,500 people in the city of Hudson and a fleet of 25 ships pursuing the oceans
- Each year 4-5 million gallons of sperm oil and 1.6-5.6 pounds of bone brought in from whaling
- Economy flourished in Hudson as various whale parts were utilized to make products
  - whale bone
  - spermaceti
  - ambergris
  - sperm oil
- Whale products of a strong commercial value
  - smoke-free white light
  - smokeless candles
  - buggy whips
  - carriage springs
  - corset stays
  - lamps
  - perfume and luxury soaps

www.ecoceanos.cl
ECONOMY AND THE WHALING INDUSTRY

- Whaling was a dangerous business both physically and economically.
- Advancements in technology hurt the whaling industry and profit:
  - Discovery of petroleum
  - 1 in 10 ships lost money
  - Industrial accidents
  - Invention of kerosene lamps
A WHALES TALE

This week’s animal is the Sperm Whale. Look at the labeled whale and see what each part consists of (bones, blubber, etc.) Let’s see if we can figure out what parts make the products on this list. Use the lessons and stories we read this week to complete the assignment! Good luck!

HINT: DON’T FORGET THE INSIDE PARTS OF THE WHALE!

Strings for tennis rackets  Stitches  Bike seats  Corsets
Ladies’ Undergarments  Whips  Saddles  Vitamins
Lamp oil  Candles  Soap  Margarine
Perfumes  Lipstick  Food

TEETH and BONES:
LIVER:
BLUBBER:
SPERMACETI (BRAIN OIL):
MEAT:
A Brief History:

In 1783, Quaker families came from Nantucket in search of a new location for their whaling industry. They settled on Claverak Landing and established the city of Hudson which flourished with the influence of the whaling industry.

Directions:

North on Route 9 for about 40 miles. Continue on Warren Street for about 1 mile. Turn left on Route 9G. Turn right on Cherry Aly which will take you into the center of Hudson.

http://www.hvareaweb.com/HUDSON.HTM
WHAT’S THERE?

• Past:
  - Up to 15 ships arriving or leaving daily
  - Warehouses, shipyards, sail makers, etc.
  - Occupation of whalers
  - Exotic goods

• Present:
  - Robert Jenkins House & Museum
  - Antique Center
  - Daughters of the American Revolution Museum
  - Art galleries & craft shops

http://www.hvareaweb.com/HUDSON.HTM
**Brief History:** The village of Cold Spring Harbor on the north shore of Long Island, was home to nine whaling vessels for more than thirty years.

**Directions:** Long Island Expressway to exit 44N. North on Woodbury Rd to Route 25A. Turn right toward the town of Cold Spring Harbor. Watch for Museum on left in Town.

- 1 hour, 15 minutes east of the George Washington Bridge.
Today, there is a museum featuring exhibits on whaling implements, marine paintings, ship models, a diorama of the whaling port and a fully equipped whaleboat from the brig.
HUDSON RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

* Dedicated to the preservation of the Maritime History of the Hudson River Valley*

- **A brief history:** This is the only museum in the state of NY to preserve the maritime history in the Hudson River Valley, its tributaries, and the industries that developed around it.

- **Directions:** Follow 9W north through Port Ewen. After crossing Rondout Creek, turn left at first light onto Garraghan Drive. Left at next light onto Broadway. At the bottom of the hill, turn left. Museum is on the right.

http://www.ulster.net/~hrmm/
WHAT’S THERE?

- A place that preserves the maritime history, it’s tributaries, and the industries that developed around it.
- Indoor and outdoor exhibits on Hudson River maritime history, a gift shop, waterfront special events, and boat rides to the historic Rondout Lighthouse are available at the museum.

http://www.ulster.net/~hrmm/
ITINERARY

Visiting The Hudson River Maritime Museum, Hudson, New York, and Cold Spring Harbor will help visitors gain a better understanding of the Hudson Whaling Industry. The impact that the whaling industry had on the Hudson River Valley has caused it to become a significant part of New York’s history.

The Hudson River Maritime Museum is the only museum in New York that is dedicated to preserving maritime history of the Hudson River and its related industries. A collection of paintings, photographs, ship models, and other artifacts are on display.

Hudson, New York is the original town of the Hudson Whaling Industry and there are many remnants there today. Visitors can see the town where whaling took place and the Robert Jenkins Museum displays many artifacts and goods made from whales.

Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum is located off the Long Island Sound. Through its exhibits and programs, the museum supports marine mammal conservation. By obtaining an understanding of the history of the whaling industry, individuals will gain more of a perspective of the vast importance that the industry had as a whole.
Welcome to Hudson, NY

THE WHALING INDUSTRY IN HUDSON, NY

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CONCLUSION

The Hudson Whaling Industry had a tremendous impact on the Hudson River Valley. The occupation of the whaling industry caused an increase in economy, a cultural revolution, and left a significant mark on history.
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