

Cultures with Connections

Grade 4

Nineteenth century New Bedford whalers established cultural and economic ties with ports in Hawaii and Alaska. Native Hawaiians supplied food and additional crew to whaling vessels. The Iñupiat people of northern Alaska taught whalers new ways to hunt and survive the harsh winters. Inspired by New Bedford's participation in the ECHO project, this program provides experiential activities to reinforce the common thread of history that connects these three regions.

Learning standards will be met as students:

- Identify the differences in the climate, physical characteristics and major natural resources of New Bedford, Hawaii and northern Alaska
- Use maps to locate regions in the United States
- Recognize the diverse nature of the American people
- Investigate objects to understand cultural traditions, ceremonies and celebrations
- Interpret native Hawaiian and Alaskan stories

ALL PROGRAMS CORRESPOND TO THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS.

Suggested Pre-Visit Activities

- Identify the location of New Bedford, Hawai'i, Alaska, the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. Maps can be found at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/maps/>.
- Use the template at www.whalingmuseum.org/education to have students make their own nametag.

Suggested Post-Visit Activities

- Compare and contrast the climate, topography, types of vegetation and natural resources found in Massachusetts, Hawai'i, and the North Slope of Alaska. Go to www.whalingmuseum.org/education Pre & Post Activities: Grades 4-12 for a graphic organizer.
- Discuss the importance of oral histories in Native cultures. Have students identify stories that they have heard family members tell. Students can then interview family members, record the details of one story and share it with the class.
- Have students write a thank you note to the docents (museum volunteers) using at least one new vocabulary word they learned during their visit to the Museum.



School Programs 07/08

Extend
the Classroom Experience

New Bedford Whaling Museum • 18 Johnny Cake Hill • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740-6398 • 508 997-0046 • www.whalingmuseum.org

Name _____

Compare / Contrast

	Massachusetts	Hawaii'i	Alaska
Attributes			
Climate			
Topography (MOUNTAINS, TUNDRA, ETC.)			
Vegetation			
TREES			
PLANTS			
FRUIT			
Natural Resources			