

At Sea Letter Writing Assignment

Historians try to put themselves in the shoes of persons who lived long ago. In conclusion to our study of whaling, you will be creating a believable, vivid first-hand account of life on board a whaling vessel in the early to mid 1800s. It has been a year since you left your family on Martha's Vineyard and shipped out of New Bedford. You have so much to say!

You will write an *informal letter* that includes the

- date,
- place where you are writing from,
- salutation,
- and closing.

The body of the letter will have at least two paragraphs.

You will need to imagine that you are a crew member on the whale ship *Virginia*. No one in your family has been on a whaling voyage and you want them to understand what your life is like on board. Your writing should be informative and help your family to imagine what whaling is like.

Make sure that your letter:

- Has five or more facts. (These should be historically accurate and cover a range of topics.)
- Is in letter format. (The style may be informal.)
- Uses three or more senses. (Describe aspects of the voyage using references to look, feel, smell, taste, and sound.)