



Museum Access: Mystic Seaport Museum

SEASON 2 - EPISODE 5

The Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, CT is a truly unique location to learn about America's maritime history. It features a village with shops, buildings and a working shipyard showing the trades from early America. Historic ships like the Charles W. Morgan are on view for visitors to learn more about what life on a whaling ship was like for early Americans. Let's continue the learning with these questions and talk points.

Question 1

Why is learning by experiencing so important at the Mystic Seaport Museum?

More Talking Points:

1. What were some of the important trades in America in the early 1800's?
2. How did they impact life onboard ships?

Question 2

Coopers and Printers were common trades in early America. What made them such an important part of the culture at the time?

More Talking Points:

1. Why were blacksmiths also an important part every seaport?
2. What other trades would you be interested in learning more about?

Question 3

Why was whaling such an important part of early American life?

More Talking Points:

1. How were the crew members compensated?
2. Why did the practice of hunting whales eventually end?

Question 4

What were some of the advancements in the whaling industry?

More Talking Points:

1. How did the harpoons impact the job of whalers?
2. Where did the idea of the toggle come from?

Question 5

How did a typical ship stay stocked with food etc. for long voyages?

More Talking Points:

1. Would you want to be a crewmember? Why or why not?
2. What were some of the challenges of being a whaler?

