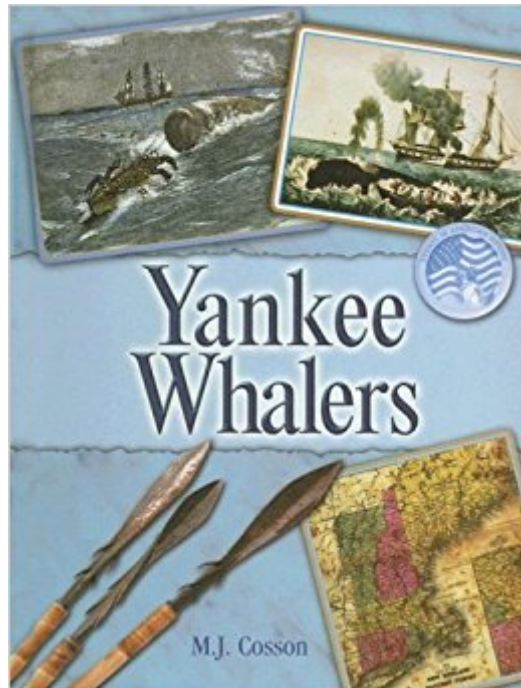




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Yankee Whalers (Events In American History)



Synopsis

Book by Cosson, M. J.

Book Information

Series: Events in American History

Library Binding: 48 pages

Publisher: Rourke Publishing (FL) (September 1, 2006)

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Age Range: 11 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6 • Cosson begins with a description of an early-day whale hunt and then describes the development of Yankee whaling, its struggles during the Revolutionary War, its golden age, life on a whaleship, and the industry's demise. Laager introduces George Washington as a young soldier, briefly explains the main causes of the war, and discusses the major campaigns and battles. Owens discusses the establishment of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Following chapters discuss who the Pilgrims were, life on the Mayflower, the first winter in the colony, and the establishment of Plymouth as a permanent settlement. The Mayflower Compact is mentioned and briefly explained. Each title is liberally illustrated with vintage color, sepia, and black-and-white drawings and paintings of the era. Most captions are a repetition of the texts. Boxed quotations from the period appear throughout. Each title concludes with a two-page section of biographical sketches. Libraries needing basic or additional materials at this level should consider these books.

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This slender volume offers a colorful introduction to the history of Yankee whaling from the seventeenth-century Nantucket Quakers, who began hunting whales because their land was too poor for farming, to modern tourists, who go on whale watches. Well organized and clearly written, the book does a particularly good job of portraying life on a whaler in the 1800s and showing how whaling fit into broader events, such as the Revolutionary War. Glossy pages allow for excellent color reproduction of period paintings and prints as well as the occasional photo. Sidebars offer background information, while boxed quotes add the voices of anonymous whalers as well as historical figures. A glossary, time line, a section of short biographies, and brief lists of books and Internet sites round out this useful volume from the Events in American History series. Carolyn Phelan

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The first chapter of this book does a great job of describing the entire experience and procedure of Yankee Whaling. We read this in conjunction with an illustrated, condensed version of Moby Dick.

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