Of Whales and Men. . .

A Look at the Relationship Between Whales and Humanity Over Time
TWELFTH ANNUAL

PEBBLE BEACH
FOOD & WINE

April 11-14, 2019

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Week 1

INTRODUCTION and BEFORE THE CHRISTIAN ERA
WEEK 1 - INTRODUCTION

➤ Course Outline
➤ Early Human Attitudes & Concepts of Whales
➤ The Reality of Whales & Whale Species
➤ Why Hunt Whales?
➤ Pre-Christian Era Whale Utilization & Hunting
TODAY’S HANDOUTS

- Today’s Outline
- Course Outline
- Of Whales And Men . . . The Relationship Over Time
- Timeline For Time Period Covered In Class 1
- Commodities/Products From Whales
- Cetacean Size Comparison Chart
- The Hunted/Exploited Cetaceans
COURSE OUTLINE

WK 1 – Introduction

WK 2 – Thru 1600s:
   Early Indigenous & Commercial Whaling
COURSE OUTLINE

WK 1 – Introduction

WK 2 – Thru 1600s

WK 3 – 1700 to early 1800s:
Whaling Expands to the American Colonies – and Beyond
COURSE OUTLINE

WK 4 – 1800 to 1860s

The Glory Years of US Whaling
Expanding to New Grounds
COURSE OUTLINE

WK 4 – 1800 to 1860s:

WK 5 – 1860s to 1900:
Evolving Technology;
Changing Grounds
COURSE OUTLINE

WK 4 – 1800 to 1860s:

WK 5 – 1860s to 1900:

WK 6 – 1901 to 1925:

Commercial Whaling Shifts to the Antarctic – The Early Years in the South
COURSE OUTLINE

WK 7 – 1926 to the 1970s:
The Slaughter Years Lead to Industry Collapse
COURSE OUTLINE

WK 7 – 1926 to the 1970s:

WK 8 – After the 1970s:
   Wrap-up; Whales and Humans today . . .
SUGGESTED READING


Roman, Joe, *Whale*, 2006
ATTITUDES ABOUT WHALES THRU THE AGES

➢ IN THE BEGINNING: Awe, Wonder, and Spiritual Respect; Fear – and Bounty from the Seas

➢ FOR CENTURIES UNTIL VERY RECENTLY: Object of Exploitation

➢ TODAY: Fascination, Admiration, and Concern
ATTITUDES THRU THE AGES

IN THE BEGINNING:

Awe, Wonder, and Spiritual Respect

Fear

And Bounty from the Sea
Blue Whale Skeleton at UC Santa Cruz
48-Foot Male Sperm Whale Skeleton on Display in New Bedford MA Whaling Museum
ATTITUDES THRU THE AGES

IN THE BEGINNING:

FEAR
ATTITUDES THRU THE AGES

IN THE BEGINNING:

FEAR
ATTITUDES THRU THE AGES

IN THE BEGINNING:

FEAR
Awe, wonder, fear reflected in stories

In the Bible, Jonah is swallowed by a great fish
Jonah – Another Version

The sea creature, though still much like a great fish, is here more whale-like, with two spouts of water arising from his head.
Jonah – Another Version

The sea creature, though still much like a great fish, is here more whale-like, with two spouts of water arising from his head.
A Modern Illustration

A sperm whale? Size is plausible, but the leap over the boat is not.
Greek and Roman Philosophers / Naturalists Made Observations, Commented on Whales

Aristotle [384-322 BC]

Pliny the Elder 22-79 AD
The Reality of Whales

Water-dwelling Mammals

A species of the Order Cetacean (whales, dolphins, & porpoises)
Early land ancestor of Cetaceans, from 50-47,000,000 years ago

Based on Fossil records
“It’s all yours.”
Eventually the largest of the cetaceans reached such a size that the “great whales” became the largest animals that have ever existed.
The Great Whales, the object of the hunters and exploiters

Toothed
The Great Whales, the object of the hunters and exploiters

Toothed and Baleen
Baleen Whales vs Toothed Whales

The difference is in the mouth
In what the whale feeds on
And how it does it
The Bowhead Whale

With a yawning mouth equipped with hundreds of baleen plates to filter food, pushed out by a gigantic tongue
The First Baleen Whales Aggressively Hunted by Commercial Whalers

RIGHT WHALES – Up to 65 feet long; and 100+ tons

BOWHEAD WHALES – Up to 60 feet long and 100 tons
20th Century Baleen Whale Targets
The Rorquals

HUMPBACK WHALES – Up to 50 feet long, max 45 tons

BLUE WHALES – Up to 100+ feet long, 180 tons
The Most Hunted Toothed Whale

THE SPERM WHALE – Uniquely Valuable for Spermaceti
up to 65-70 feet long, 60 tons
The Other Hunted Toothed Whales

KILLER WHALES – Both hunted and displayed

BAIRD’S BEAKED WHALES
Largest of the 3 species of Giant Beaked Whales
Resources from Hunted & Beached Whales

- Blubber
- Muscle/Flesh
- Baleen
- Teeth and Skeletal whale bone
- Other
Resources from Whales – Blubber

What is blubber?
Resources from Whales – Blubber

Most importantly,
Source of Whale Oil, with many uses
Resources from Whales – Blubber

Most importantly, Source of Whale Oil, with many uses
Resources from Whales – Muscle/Flesh

SOURCE OF:
Whale Meat; Whale Oil;
Raw Material for other products
Resources from Whales – Baleen

In the days before spring steel and plastic, what was called “whalebone” was immensely valuable for multiple uses.
Resources from Whales – Baleen

In the days before spring steel and plastic,

What was called “whalebone” was immensely valuable for multiple uses.
Resources from Whales – Teeth & and Skeletal bones

SOURCE OF:
Artistic material; whale oil; building materials; tools . . .
Resources from Whales – Teeth & and Skeletal bones

Skeletal bone used for signs

8th-9th Century Viking Plaque on whale skeletal bone

18th cen. German Inn sign on Bowhead shoulder blade
Resources from Whales
Skin, organs, spermaceti, ambergris, other

SOURCE OF:
Food;
whale oil;
coverings;
fixatives;
lubricants; other

Spermaceti base for cosmetics
Spermaceti candle & lube oil
Resources from Whales
Skin, organs, spermaceti, ambergris, other

SOURCES OF:
Food;
whale oil;
coverings;
fixatives;
lubricants; other

Ambergris, from the intestines of a sperm whale

Perfumes fixed with Ambergris
WHALES AND HUMANITY

A Global Animal of the Ocean

With a Global Human Relationship that is Thousands of Years Old
The Earliest Exploited Whales

A Gift From the Sea

Bodies of Dead Whales Washed Ashore

Dead Sei Whale on a Beach
The Earliest Exploited Whales
A Gift From the Sea

Live Whales that Became Stranded

Beached Pilot Whales
The Next Step
Hunting the Whale at Sea
The Next Step
Hunting the Whale at Sea
Earliest Depictions of Whales

Petroglyphs from South Korea
Earliest Depictions of Whales

Petroglyphs from South Korea
Earliest Depictions of Whales and Whale Hunting

Petroglyphs from South Korea
Earliest Depictions of Whales And Whale Hunting

Petroglyphs from South Korea

Hunting a whale at sea – boat with hunters on left, drogue/float on right
3000 Years Ago
Hunters were Taking Whales in the Russian Arctic

Chukotka Peninsula
And Farther South
Australian Aborigines, New Zealand Maoris, Polynesians
And In Europe
Norway

At sea, ready to shoot with a bow, then followed by a float
Next Week (April 18)
From ~0 AD Through ~1700

Indigenous Subsistence
Whaling Evolves and Expands

The Rise of Commercial Whaling