It is not surprising that Melville's imagination was sparked by the New Bedford whaling port. In 1839, the city's whaling fleet comprised 34 ships, and the waterfront teemed with sailors and tradespeople from around the world. In one year alone, 10,000 sailors passed through New Bedford. The city was indeed the whaling capital of the nation, and Melville's experience of the port would later find its way into his literature. He would come to write so vividly about the land—especially New Bedford—that it is no accident the city of New Bedford appears in the work of Thomas Hart and in the work of Melville's friend and fellow author Nathaniel Hawthorne. The librarian highlights some of the places which played notable roles in Melville's life and work. Today you may tour one of New Bedford's Whaleman's shipping houses and boatyards. Melville may have registered at this custom house before setting out on his first voyage in 1841. The city's many waterfront buildings are today part of the Visitor Center of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Concerned citizens hoped that the town would be preserved as a moral oasis amidst the demoralizing influences to which sailors are too often exposed. The Seamen's Bethel, located on Union Street, was the hub of the whaling port in the mid-nineteenth century. It is the oldest continuously operating custom house in the United States. The Seamen's Bethel provided an alternative setting for religious services that were originally given by the church's chaplains on the decks of vessels. In this same New Bedford there stands a Whaleman's Chapel, and few are the patrician-like houses; parks and gardens. With its balustrade and iron fence, the Federal-style Rodman house, Benjamin Rodman house is a fine example of the kind of house Melville's character speaks of in his only whaling voyage. His name is among the crew of this whaling ship. Melville, his novel Moby Dick, and the National Park Service have all helped to bring the story of Whaling National Historical Park to the nation.
Moby Dick: Exploring His World

During the year. Every January 3rd in New Bedford, Massachusetts, the Moby Dick Festival is held. The town of New Bedford is located in Massachusetts, United States. The New Bedford Whaling Museum is located along Water Street, which is part of the New Bedford waterfront district.

The port of New Bedford was the world’s leading whaling port in the 19th century and is known as the “Whaling Capital of the World.” The museum is located in a historic whaling ship called the Egan, which is part of the collection of the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

The museum is located in the heart of the New Bedford waterfront district and is home to the world’s largest collection of whaling artifacts and documents. It is one of the largest maritime museums in the world and is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of whaling.

The museum contains exhibits about the history of whaling, the lives of the whalers, and the impact of whaling on the local community. It also contains a large collection of ship models, paintings, and photographs of whaling ships.

The museum is open year-round and is located at 175 Water Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. Admission is free for members and children under the age of 3. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to confirm hours and to plan their visit.

Visit the museum to learn about the history of whaling and the people who participated in it. The museum also offers educational programs and workshops for children and adults. It is a great place to explore the history of whaling and to learn about the impact it had on the local community.

For more information, visit the museum’s website at whaling.org or call 508-997-0046.