

## **“History and the Aquarium” Scavenger Hunt**

### **Created by Teachers during the Boston Museum Institute**

### **August 6-10, 2007**

*Note to Readers:* These questions came from a group of 15 teachers who explored the Aquarium and its land & harbor surroundings. These questions range in difficulty and we hope that teachers simply view this as an inventory of questions from which you can pull to custom create your own scavenger hunt for a class field trip! If you have more questions to add, please contact Program Coordinator Sunnye Dreyfus at [sdreyfus@bostonmuseum.org](mailto:sdreyfus@bostonmuseum.org).

- 1) What was the use of the Customs House Block? How has the use changed?
  - 2) Why was there a need for more than one Customs House on the waterfront?
  - 3) How many boats/ships were able to fit into the harbor?
  - 4) Aside from staying on the waterfront, what more did the Aquarium do to help revitalize the area?
  - 5) How do you think the purpose of the Central & Long Wharf area has changed since the 1700's?
  - 6) How do people in Boston access fish now?
  - 7) How were goods from ships transported to designated areas for trade & sale?
  - 8) How has the size of boats/ships changed over the years? Why?
  - 9) How did the Right Whale get its name?
  - 10) Why is the Right Whale endangered?
  - 11) How have the changes in audio/visual technology enhanced visitor experience at the Aquarium? (Examples: Critter Cam, Interactive exhibits, etc.)
  - 12) Describe one environmental issue that has been addressed in order to increase marine life in the Boston Harbor.
  - 13) Create a design/picture/web describing some of the species of fish which you believe may have been native to our local waterways. How have their numbers been affected as a result of human presence & expansion in Boston?
  - 14) Think about the movie *Happy Feet* and what the penguins experienced. Create an experience that the FISH may have gone/are going through in relation to the growth of Boston.
  - 15) What do you think would need to be done in terms of prevention, conservation, etc. to better the condition of Boston Harbor, bringing you closer to the conditions before the settlers?
  - 16) What can the Aquarium do to expand/improve the exhibits you see here in 10, 20, 50 years? What would YOU like to see?
  - 17) What do you think is missing from the Aquarium now? What would help represent the historical issues you've explored in an exhibit?
  - 18) Shortly after their arrival, the early colonist began constructing dams across rivers. The dams provided water power for their mills, but blocked the fish that traveled upstream to spawn. This fish almost became extinct...what is it?
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- 19) Why were Right Whales hunted?
  - 20) Why might it be important for the Aquarium to be located along the waterfront? (Think in terms of the symbolic as well as economic history).
  - 21) How has whaling changed over the centuries?
  - 22) How has our economic relationship to whales changed?
  - 23) How many languages appear on the welcome sign in the lobby? What does this demonstrate about the economics of the aquarium?