

1 Complete the text about Herman Melville, the author of *Moby Dick*. Use the words in the box.

been cannibals considered crew death
 encouraged industry popular rescued sank

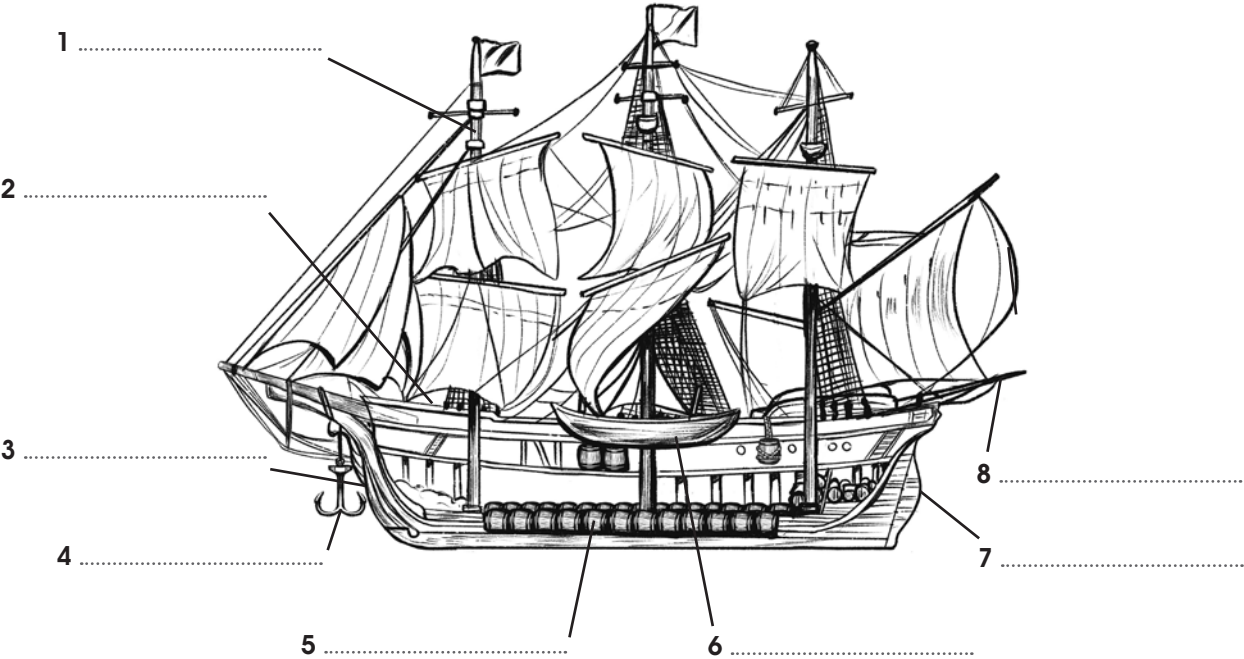
Herman Melville was born in New York in 1819 to a rich family. He grew up when the whale hunting ¹ was very successful: whale oil was a ² fuel at the time and whalebone was used to make dresses. There must have ³ lots of stories about the excitement and danger of hunting whales during that period, and the sinking of a ship called the *Essex* in 1820 could have given Melville the idea for *Moby Dick*. Like the *Pequod* in the book, a whale ⁴ that ship too.

After the ⁵ of his father, Melville's family lost a lot of money and Melville had to start working. He had several jobs but none of them lasted very long. When he was twenty-one, he joined the ⁶ of a whaling ship called the *Acushnet*. After a long time at sea, he left the ship and was taken captive by ⁷ He was later ⁸ by another ship.

Melville had many other adventures, and it was these adventures that ⁹ him to write *Moby Dick*. The book was not popular when it came out, but today it is ¹⁰ to be a classic.

2 Label the missing parts of a whaling ship.

anchor barrel boom bow deck mast stern whaleboat



3a Match the characters with their descriptions from the book. Draw lines between them.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 Captain Ahab | a He was brave when he hunted whales, but was wise and intelligent, so he did not take unnecessary chances. |
| 2 Queequeg | b Even as he was in his whaleboat, fighting with a whale, he would be whistling a tune. |
| 3 Starbuck | c He had a short beard, and a long, thin, white mark came out of his grey hair and all the way down the right side of his face and neck. |
| 4 Stubb | d A short, strong, red-faced young man with white-blond hair. He was a very ordinary man who did not think deeply about anything. |
| 5 Flask | e His whole body was covered with the same dark, square tattoos as his face. |

3b Complete the chart with more details about the characters in 3a.

Character	Job	What are they like? What do they believe and want?	How do they die?
Captain Ahab			
Queequeg			
Starbuck			
Stubb			
Flask			

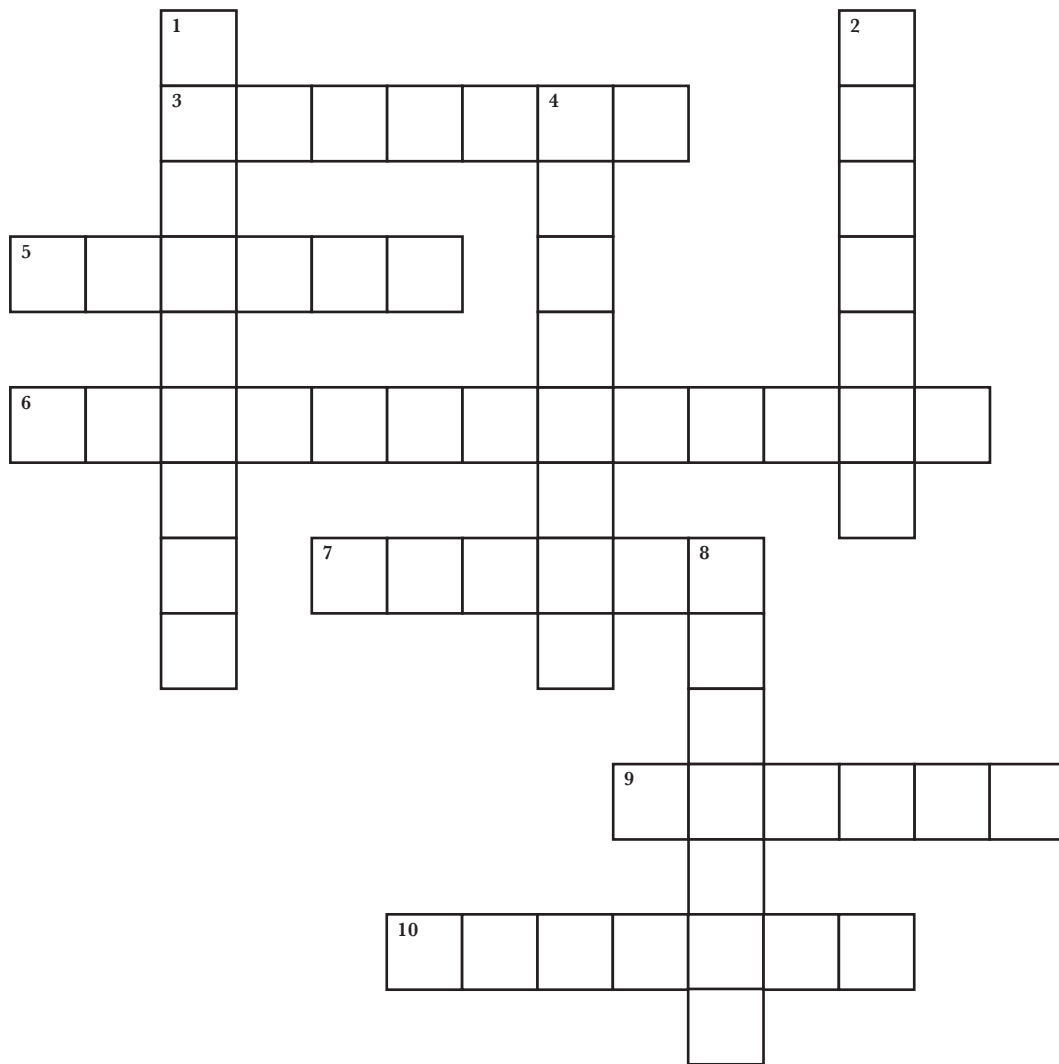
4 Put the events in the correct order (1–10).

- a Captain Ahab reveals the real reason for the voyage: to catch Moby Dick.
- b Queequeg becomes ill and asks for a coffin to be made for him.
- c Captain Ahab hammers a gold coin into the mast as a reward for the person who sees the whale first.
- d Moby Dick sinks the *Pequod* and Ahab dies.
- e Ishmael survives by using Queequeg's coffin and is finally rescued.
- f Elijah, a stranger, warns Ishmael and Queequeg about the captain of the *Pequod*.
- g Ishmael meets Queequeg, a harpooner and cannibal.
- h Captain Ahab finally comes out of his cabin.
- i Ishmael decides to join the crew of a whaling ship.
- j Captain Ahab sees Moby Dick and the crew tries to kill the whale.

5 The *Pequod* meets a number of other ships during the hunt for Moby Dick and Captain Ahab always asks the crew of these ships for news of the “white whale”. Complete the table with the correct information.

Ship	From	What do the crew know about the white whale?
<i>Albatross</i>		
<i>Jungfrau</i>		
<i>Samuel Enderby</i>		
<i>Bachelor</i>		
<i>Rachel</i>		

6 Do the crossword.



Across

- 3 A bed made from rope or cloth that you hang between two posts or trees.
- 5 A person who attacks ships at sea and steals things from them.
- 6 Believing that if you see or do a particular thing, then something bad or good will happen.
- 7 A long journey on a boat.
- 9 A tool for hitting things.
- 10 A weapon used for hunting whales.

Down

- 1 An area of water that moves very quickly in circles and pulls things down into its center.
- 2 Making you think that something bad will happen.
- 4 A person who eats other humans.
- 8 The line that goes around the middle of the map of the Earth.

7 Apart from whales, what other dangers do you think sailors faced at sea? Make a list.

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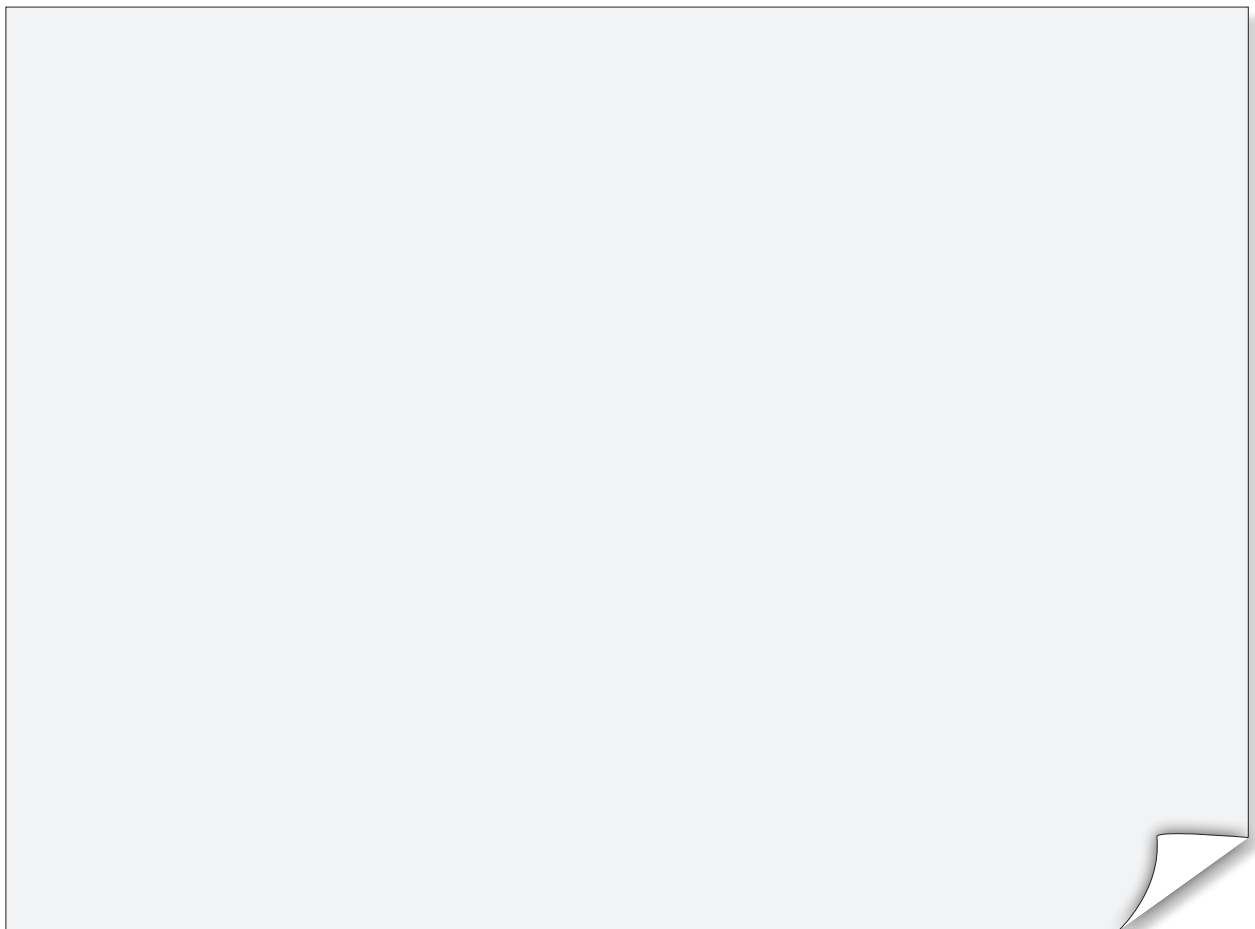
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8 Design a poster advertising for crew members for the *Pequod*. Include the following information on the poster.

- Name of ship and captain
- Where the ship is sailing to and from
- When the ship leaves
- How long the ship will be at sea
- Purpose of the voyage
- Crew members required (riggers, harpooners, etc.)



9 A sea shanty is a song that sailors used to sing while they were working on a ship. Look up sea shanties online and write your own, describing the events of *Moby Dick*.



10 Write a review of *Moby Dick*. Your review should answer the questions in the box.

What kind of story is it? When and where is it set? What is it about?
Who are the main characters?
What important events happened? Why were they important?
What did you like about it? What didn't you like about it?

