

21L501 Stranger and Stranger [American Novel] Resources for Mapping *Moby-Dick* in Locast

Essay 1: Mapping Melville Due session 11

For this essay, you will explore Melville's imagination of a vast space, the geographical world of *Moby-Dick*. Using a digital mapping tool called Locast (<http://locast.mit.edu/melville>) and a database of Melville's place names keyed to the Longman Critical Edition of the text, you will choose a geographical location or region that interests you. Use Annotation Studio (<http://annotationstudio.mit.edu/>) to search *Moby-Dick* and annotate relevant place names, adding comments, images, and links to useful online materials. You will then create a "cast," or small collection of images, video clips, and comments, to upload to Locast, to populate the class's map of Melville's world, and to share with the class on session 11. Your essay for this project will reflect on the significance of Melville's references to the location you chose in *Moby-Dick*, focusing on particular passages in the text.

Checklist

1. Register for Locast at the address above and at Annotation Studio if you have not already done so.
2. As you read *Moby-Dick* note geographical locations that figure in Melville's text in striking ways. Use the textual notes in the Longman edition to identify unfamiliar names and places. Search the Excel spreadsheet provided and the Locast map to see how often and where these names appear in the novel. Note Melville's use of language in significant passages where geographical locations appear. Use these tools to select the region that interests you most and will give you rich materials to explore for your project.
3. Use the Annotation Studio text to search, comment on, and make connections within the novel.
4. Create a "cast" within Locast. Upload suitable content, using the resources below as a starting point.
5. Your cast should contain at least one example of three different media:
 - a. visual images (18th or 19th-century maps, fine arts, illustrations; photography)
 - b. video (clips from YouTube stock footage or other reputable academic, museum, library, film, or television sources; yourself or an interview subject speaking on your topic)
 - c. written comments in the Locast comment box (including the passage(s) in *Moby-Dick* where your location appears and captions/bibliography for your materials). You may also link to useful books or articles.
6. You will present your cast briefly (5 minutes) in class on session 11 and submit your essay that evening.

Resources

1. Museum Collections
 - a. Hart Nautical Collection, MIT:
http://web.mit.edu/museum/collections/nautical_list.html
 - b. New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA:
<http://www.whalingmuseum.org/explore/collections/database>. See also the Purrington and Russell *Grand Panorama of a Whaling Voyage 'Round the World* <http://www.whalingmuseum.org/explore/collections/panorama>
 - c. Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea:
http://www.mysticseaport.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewPage&page_id=1
 - d. Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA: <http://www.pem.org/collections/>
2. YouTube Stock Footage: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FootageForFree>. See also clips from film versions of *Moby-Dick*.
3. Research Support
 - a. Hart Nautical Collection, MIT: Kurt Hasselbalch
 - b. New Bedford Whaling Museum:
 - i. General Information: Mark Procknik
 - ii. Images, photos: Michael Lapidés
 - iii. Maps: Michael P. Dyer
 - c. MIT Libraries: Mark Szarko
4. Technical Support
 - a. Locast: Amar Boghani
 - b. Annotation Studio: Jamie Folsom, Ayse Gursoy

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

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