



# Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan

## The Shipbuilding Industry in the Essex National Heritage Area

**School:** Veterans Memorial School  
**Subject:** American History

**Contributors:** Melita Davis  
**Grade:** 4

### Introduction:

Learn about shipbuilding with a field trip to the Essex Shipbuilding Museum.

### Objectives:

- Students will understand the importance of the fishing and whaling industry in New England.
- Students will understand the importance of Shipbuilding in the Essex National Heritage Area.
- Students will identify other industries that developed due to the shipbuilding industry.
- Students will locate specific areas on a map that are of importance to the shipbuilding industry.



Outside at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum.

### Materials:

- Social Studies Textbook: *Regions and Resources*, Chapter 3, Silver, Burdett, Ginn, Inc.
- Map of Essex National Heritage Area
- *A Kid's Book on Boatbuilding* by Will Ansel. Published by Woodenboat Publications, Naskeag Road, PO Box 78. Brookline, ME 04616



# Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan

## Vocabulary:

**Steambending:** Device made to take straight pieces of oak, which are steamed, which allows wood to be bent.

**Trunnel:** Wooden nails made by shipbuilders

**Shipyards:** Business developed along coastal areas to manufacture ships

**Port:** a place on a river, lake, or ocean, where ships can safely load and unload supplies.



A work area in the Essex Shipbuilding Museum.

## Pre-Visit Activities:

Complete the *To Fish or Not to Fish?* worksheet in the Social Studies textbook.

## On-Site Activities:

While in the Essex Shipbuilding Museum, complete the field trip questionnaire / investigation sheet.

## Post-Visit Activities:

Develop a list of related industries in the New England region. In small groups, make a sign to hang at each establishment.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Field Trip Questionnaire / Investigation Sheet

---

1. Identify the following:

☛ Caulkers

☛ Trunnel

☛ Steambending

☛ Evelina Goulart

☛ Oakum

2. Name some other industries needed by the shipbuilding industry.

3. Why were Essex shipyards originally located in Ipswich, Massachusetts?

4. How did they rebuild America's fishing industry after the Revolutionary War?

5. Can you name other vessels built in the Essex Shipyard?