



NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

Document Analysis Activity



Activity Overview: Students will examine a primary document, an image from the 1985-1986 New Bedford fishermen’s strike.

Grades: This activity was created for students in middle or high school and should be adjusted accordingly.

Background Information:

For more information on the 1985-1986 New Bedford fishermen’s strike, [click here](#). [Click here](#) to access a high-resolution file of the image. The image is provided by Spinner Publications. Please do not use the image for purposes other than this lesson.

Activity Directions:

- This activity works well as part of a lesson on labor unions and New Bedford history. Students can first look through the “Labor Unrest” section of the [Changing Way of Life Digital Exhibit](#).
- Have students examine the image and answer the following questions:

(contextualization) This photo was taken on the docks in New Bedford. What time of year do you think this photo was taken? Identify two features of the photograph that support your answer.

(causality) The man in the photograph holds a sign stating that he is on strike (don't worry if you can not read the text on his sign). Why do you think he chose this location to stand with his sign?

(perspective) Using information from the Labor Unrest exhibit at the Fishing Heritage Center or the [digital exhibit](#), identify TWO reasons you think the strike started?

(perspective) This fisherman was one of many who went on strike. Why do you think the photographer composed this image as a lone striker?

Activity created by:

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