

Understanding the Rewilding of Cape Cod: A curriculum unit for  
middle school learners



# Timeline Activity

Estimated Time: 3-4 classes (4-5 hours)

This lesson and activity will provide students with an understanding of how we got to where we are today.

### Modifications

To make a local connection, have students look up local conservation acts that have had an impact on your watershed. Help them to see how locally they have had positive or negative impacts on the bigger picture.



[Rewilding Cape Cod: Interview with John King](#)

## KWL Worksheet

**Independent Work for 5 minutes**

**Class Discussion for 5 minutes**

How does the video interview relate to the article from yesterday?

Remember: In the article, we learned from scientists that white sharks are increasing in numbers.

## **Let's build a timeline!**

**As a class, we review several historical events that have led to the Cape Cod region being a place known for its wildlife.**

**Students will be expected to find 5 additional events to add to their timeline from resources provided and from their own research.**

**- A total of at least 16 events should be on the timeline.**

**For each point on the timeline, students need to have at least two bullets outlining the significance of that event, as well as a visual to represent that event**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

find rubric



### Rubric: Rewilding Cape Cod Timeline

Students are to create a timeline by hand or by using an online interactive timeline creator such as Capzles (capzles.com) concerning important events related to the rewilding of Cape Cod. There should be no less than 16 events on the timeline. Students are to include either a picture, photo, video, or audio file for each event that they believe represents the event on their timeline. Each event is to have a brief explanation of its importance along with the visual.



### Timeline



	Exemplary 5 pts	Accomplished 4 pts	Developing 2 pts	Beginning 1 pts
Events	<b>Exemplary</b> A concise description for each event is included and are in chronological order.	<b>Accomplished</b> Nearly all slides are provided with a brief description and are in chronological order.	<b>Developing</b> Most descriptions are missing, incorrect for several events and/or not in chronological order.	<b>Beginning</b> Less than half are provided with a description and/or not in chronological order.
Effects	<b>Exemplary</b> Timeline includes visual aids (picture, clip, audio file, etc...) for each event. Visuals are appropriate and add significantly to the meaning of each event.	<b>Accomplished</b> Timeline includes visual aids (picture, clip, audio file, etc...) for each event. Visuals are appropriate but do not always add significantly to the meaning of each event.	<b>Developing</b> Timeline includes visual aids (picture, clip, audio file, etc...) for some events. Visuals are appropriate but do not add significantly to the meaning of events.	<b>Beginning</b> Few, if any of the events include aids or have any connection to the events.
Significance of Events	<b>Exemplary</b> The significance of each event is explained in a clear, concise statement on the timeline. Significance makes sense and reflects higher thinking.	<b>Accomplished</b> The significance of nearly all events is explained in a brief statement on the timeline. Significance makes sense and reflects some thought.	<b>Developing</b> The significance of most events is missing and/or reflects no thought.	<b>Beginning</b> Less than half of the events are explained in the timeline.
Grammar & Spelling	<b>Exemplary</b> Timeline has no misspellings or grammatical errors. Well written and concise.	<b>Accomplished</b> Timeline has no more than two misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	<b>Developing</b> Timeline has 4+ misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	<b>Beginning</b> Timeline is difficult to read and understand due to the amount of grammatical/spelling errors.
Presentation & Quality	<b>Exemplary</b> Impressive timeline. Neatly organized. Good use of visuals. Exceeds the quality of other timelines.	<b>Accomplished</b> Overall quality of timelines about the same as other timelines. Some extra effort noticed.	<b>Developing</b> Most of timeline reflects a lack of effort. Not engaging or interesting. Below average timeline.	<b>Beginning</b> A clear lack of effort throughout. Far below the average timeline.

## Questions to ask as you identify events for your timeline

**How did this event effect the Atlantic Ocean?**

**How did this event effect the environment of Cape Cod?**

**How did this event effect wildlife on Cape Cod?**

**How did this event effect how people and wildlife interact around Cape Cod?**

If the event doesn't provide context to answer one of the questions above, is it really relevant to your timeline?



1800s

Image by Wayne Davis



Of Radiata, there were the Sea Chestnut or Egg (*Echinus granulatus*), commonly divested of its spines; flat circular shells (*Scutella parma?*) covered with chocolate-colored spines, but becoming smooth and white, with five petal-like figures; a few Starfishes or Five-fingers (*Asterias rubens*); and Sunfishes or Sea-jellies (*Aurelia*).

There was also at least one species of Sponge.

The plants which I noticed here and there on the pure sandy shelf, between the ordinary high water mark and the foot of the bank, were Sea Rocket (*Cakile Americana*), Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*), Sea Burdock (*Xanthium echinatum*), Seaside Spurge (*Euphorbia polygonifolia*); also, Beach Grass (*Arundo, Psamma, or Calamagrostis arenaria*), Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago semper-virens*), and the Beach Pea (*Lathyrus maritimus*).

Sometimes we helped a wrecker turn over a larger log than usual, or we amused ourselves with rolling stones down the bank, but we rarely could make one reach the water, the beach was so soft and wide; or we bathed in

though it was quite cold and windy. The ocean there is commonly but a tantalizing prospect in hot weather, for with all that water before you, there is (as we were afterward told) no bathing on the Atlantic side on account of the undertow and the rumor of sharks. At the lighthouse both in Eastham and Truro (the only houses quite on the shore), they declared the next year that they would not bathe there "for any sum," for they sometimes saw the sharks tossed up and quiver for a moment on the sand. Others laughed at these stories, but perhaps they could afford to because they never bathed anywhere. One old wrecker told us that he killed a regular man-eating shark fourteen feet long and hauled him out with his oxen, where we had bathed; and another, that his father caught a smaller one of the same kind that was stranded there, by standing him up on his snout so that the waves could not take him. They will tell you tough stories of sharks all over the Cape, which I do not presume to doubt utterly: how they will sometimes upset a boat, or tear it in pieces, to get at the man in it. I can easily believe in the undertow, but I have

no doubt that one shark in a dozen years is enough to keep up the reputation of a beach a hundred miles long.

of a mile parallel with a fish about six feet in length (possibly a shark) which was prowling slowly along within two rods of the shore. It was of a pale brown color, singularly film-like and indistinct in the water, as if all nature abetted this child of ocean and showed many darker transverse bars or rings whenever it came to the surface. It is well known that different fishes even of the same species are colored by the water they inhabit. We saw it go into a little cove or bathing-tub, where we had just been bathing, where the water was only four or five feet deep at that time, and after exploring it go slowly out again. But we continued to bathe there, only observing first from the bank if the cove was preoccupied. We thought that the water was fuller of life, more aerated perhaps than that of the bay, like soda water, for we were as particular as young salmon, and the expectation of encountering a shark did not subtract anything from its life-giving qualities.

Sometimes we sat on the wet beach and watched the beach birds, sandpipers, and others trotting along close to each wave and waiting for the sea to cast up their breakfast. The former (*Charadrius melodus*) ran with great rapidity, and then stood stock still, remarkably erect, and hardly to be distinguished from the beach. The wet sand was covered with small skipping Sea Fleas, which apparently made a part of their food. These last are the little scavengers of the beach and are so numerous that they will devour large fishes, which have been cast up, in a very short time. One little bird not larger than a sparrow (it may have been a Phalarope) would alight on the turbulent surface where the breakers were five or six feet high and float buoyantly there like a duck, cunningly taking to its wings and lifting itself a few feet through the air over the foaming crest of each breaker, but sometimes outriding safely a considerable billow which hid it some seconds, when its instinct told it that it would not break. It was a little creature thus to sport with the ocean, but it was as perfect a success in its way as the breakers in theirs. There was also an

# Sunday Standard-Times

FINAL

World Wide News by Full Length Wire Report of the Associated Press

10 Pages NEW BEDFORD, MASS. JULY 14, 1936 41 REVISED TEN CENTS

and  
ag  
rea  
ls  
are  
ey City  
Falls in  
Early  
win

'Shore Boat' Star  
Disorders to  
Wed Again



ALLEN JONES' WIFE IS GIVEN  
DECREE OF MARRIAGE  
PLACED TODAY

## UNCLE OF SLAIN CO-ED IS FREED, PREFERS JAIL

Cleveland Volunteers to  
Aid in Solving Murders  
at Ashville

TWO ARE IN CUSTODY

Elevator Boy, Watchmen  
at Hotel Are Being  
Questioned

ASHVILLE, N. C., July 13 (AP)—Sheriff Lawrence D. Brown announced tonight he had released Professor W. L. Cleveland, "uncle" of Helen Cleveland, slain in July fatal shooting here, but that the 24-year-old bachelor "wishes" to remain in jail.

The state grand jury returned a verdict charging Cleveland with the murder of Helen Cleveland, 21, at the Hotel Ashville, July 12. The grand jury also returned a verdict charging Cleveland with the murder of Helen Cleveland, 21, at the Hotel Ashville, July 12.

## WOMAN SLAIN AFTER THREAT

There's No Hell Here,  
Says Notes Four Orleans  
Hit in Mississippi

# SHARK KILLS SWIMMER IN MATTAPOISETT COVE

He Escaped as Shark Killed Boy



## Boston Youth Dies Here After Leg Is Amputated

Joseph C. Troy Jr., 16, Is Fatally Bitten  
While Bathing 100 Yards Off Shore  
of Hollywood Beach—Lad Puts Up  
Valiant Fight for His Life

Attacked by a shark late yesterday afternoon while swimming 100 yards off Hollywood beach, Mattapoisett, Joseph C. Troy Jr., 16, of 214 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester, died last night at 3:25 o'clock in St. Luke's Hospital.

## 2 ARE HURLED FROM CATBOAT

People Saved; Yacht Race  
Near Mattapoisett Is  
Called Off

Robert Wilson of Waltham and Man Phillip Bourne of Oak Man were hurled to their deaths last night in a catboat race near Mattapoisett, Mass.

The catboat race was called off at 8:30 o'clock last night because of a shark attack and being the swiftest boat in the race.

They died on the opening water which began with swimming the catboat race at 8:30 o'clock last night. The catboat race was called off at 8:30 o'clock last night because of a shark attack and being the swiftest boat in the race.

1936



1948



THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
ON SIGNING S.857, AN ACT TO  
PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE  
EXOP  
-----

I would like to make a brief statement. Today, in signing S.857, an Act to authorize the establishment of the Cape Cod National Seashore Park, I join the Congress and hope that this will be one of a whole series of great seashore parks which will be for the use and benefit of all of our people.

This Act makes it possible for the people of the United States through their government to acquire and preserve the natural and historic values of a portion of Cape Cod for the inspiration and enjoyment of people all over the United States.

This is a wise use of our natural resources, and I am sure that future generations will benefit greatly from the wise action taken by the Members of the Congress who are here today.

I commend the Congress for giving very careful judgment in balancing off public needs in the interests of people who live in this section of the Cape, and I think that they have done an admirable job in serving both interests in this piece of legislation.

I co-sponsored, as a Member of the Senate, a similar bill. It is a very old part of the United States, and I must say that from personal knowledge I realize very well how useful this is going to be for the people of the Cape and Massachusetts and New England and the entire United States.

There are Members of Congress here today from Texas and Colorado and Utah who have seen in their own States the tremendous contribution which these national parks can make. If we are going to double the population in another fifty years or so, we can get some idea of how important preserving this section for all the people will be.

I think we are going to need a good deal more effort like this, particularly in the more highly developed urban areas, where so many millions of people now live, and work out the means of securing the advantages of recreation and leisure which these areas can bring. So I know that the government and the Congress will work together in seeing how they can carry on similar projects in other parts of the country.

This is a matter of great interest to me, and I express my appreciation to the Members of the Congress and to the Chairmen of the Committees, and to those Members of Congress particularly as I said from not only Massachusetts who worked hard on it in a bipartisan spirit but from all sections of the country who strongly supported this legislation.

-----//-----



1961



1965

Image by Kristen Kibblehouse



1972

Image by Heather Ware



1997 (Federal) & 2005 (State)

Image by Marianne Long



2014

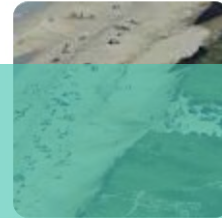
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
Research supported by the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy

 The New York Times

## Fatal Shark Attack Off Cape Cod Is First in Massachusetts Since 1936

The man, Arthur Medici, 26, of Revere, Mass., was attacked at Newcomb Hollow Beach in Wellfleet on Saturday, according to the National Park...

Oct 17, 2018



**B** Boston Magazine

## The Shark Attack That Changed Cape Cod Forever

It was a Friday afternoon in mid-September 2018, and although the academic year had just begun, the 16-year-old Everett High School junior and...

May 14, 2019

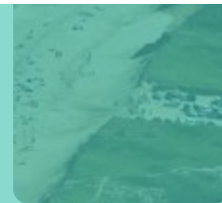


 Boston.com

## 'It was like right out of that movie 'Jaws': Revere man killed in shark attack at a Wellfleet beach

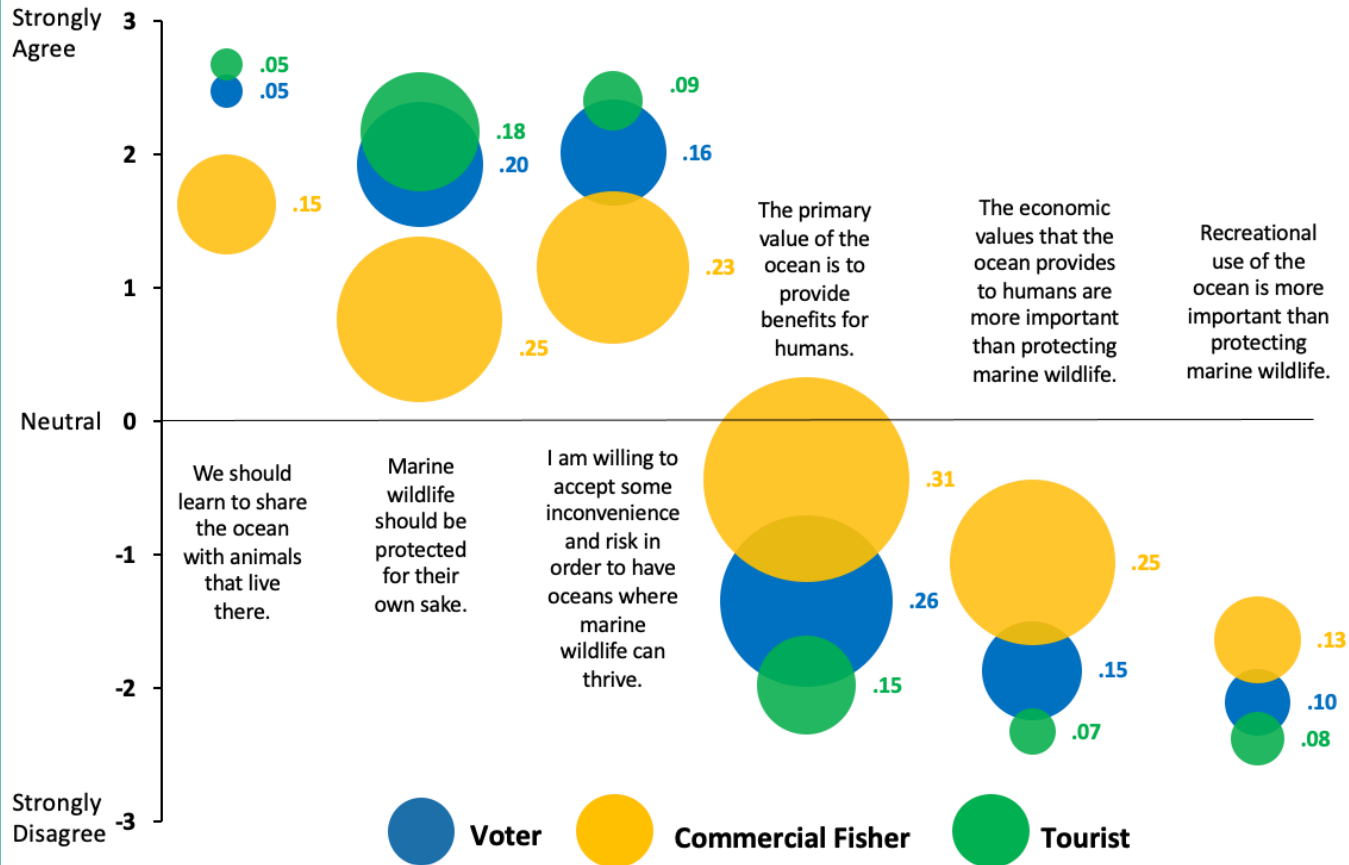
WELLFLEET, Mass. (AP) — A man was bitten by a shark Saturday in the water off a Cape Cod beach and died later at a hospital, becoming the...

Sep 15, 2018





## Support protection values / Reject use values





Headline from [‘The Brink’ Magazine, published by Boston University in Sept. 2020](#)

2020

## Classwork

### Independent research

- Use class time to research historical events, legislation, development, etc. that would have had an effect on wildlife in the region of Cape Cod.
  - Think BIG
  - Think LOCAL
    - Are there organizations that were formed or dismantled that could have had an impact?

### Exit Ticket

All students need to submit one event, *that is different* from what was presented in class by the video or slide presentation. Be sure to include the date, a description of the event, and how it affected wildlife!

# Building a timeline, as a CLASS

