

Timeline of Manjiro's Life to supplement [Voyages of Manjiro](#) Map interactive

Student Name _____ Date _____

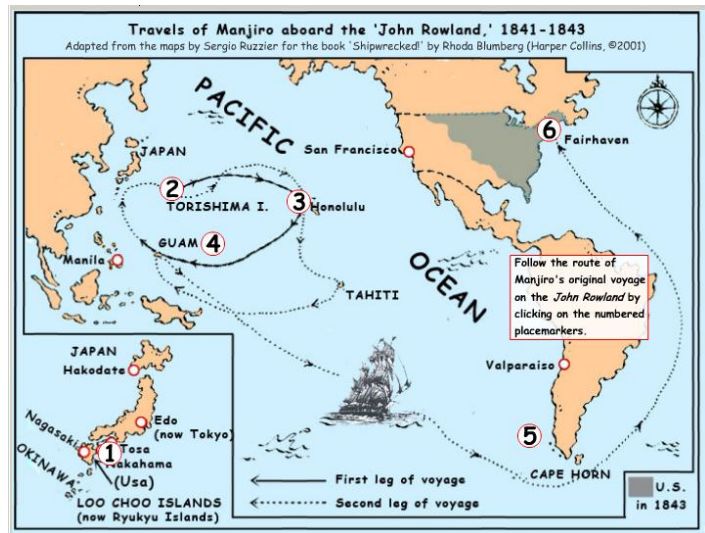
The Journey Begins: From Nakanohama to Fairhaven.

(Link to interactive: <http://edsitement.neh.gov/sites/default/files/Manjiro01.swf>)

- **(1) 1827:** Manjiro is born in Nakanohama, a Japanese village in the province of Tosa.
- **January 5, 1841:** Manjiro, age 14, boards a small boat in Usa, a coastal village for the eventful fishing trip. (Two days earlier, Herman Melville sets sail from New Bedford on the whaling ship, *The Acushnet*, on his first sea voyage.)

- **(2)** Caught in a freak storm, the crew survives for one week at sea on raw mackerel and by sucking on icicles that formed on their clothes. They drift 300 miles off the coast of Japan.

- On the eighth day, the storm subsides. The crew spots land, Torishima Island ("Bird Island"), an uninhabited volcanic piece of rock and a breeding ground for albatross. Attempting to come ashore they lose their boat on the rocks, are marooned, but take shelter in cave and survive for 5 months.

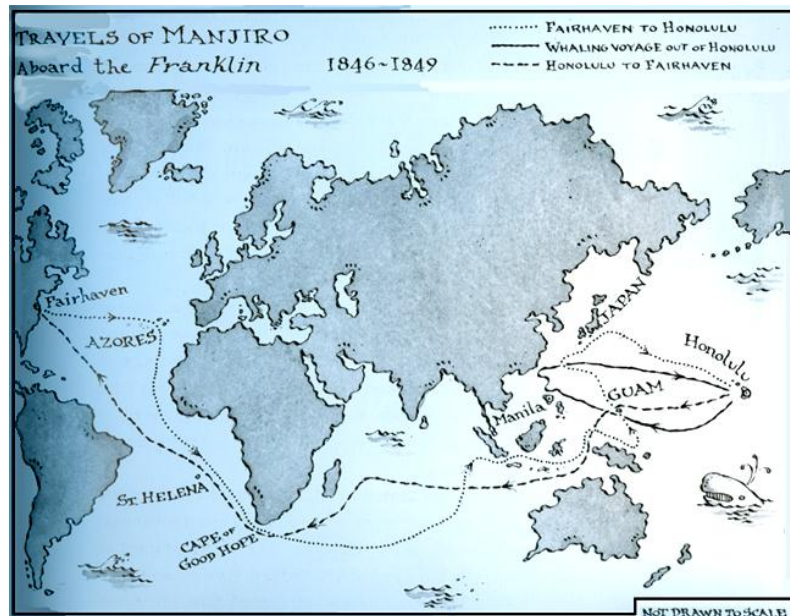


- **June 27, 1841:** The whaling ship *John Howland* out of New Bedford, Massachusetts captained by William Whitfield arrives at Torishima to harvest sea turtles for food. Manjiro swims out to meet the search party boat and the crew is rescued.
- **(3) November 20, 1841:** The *John Howland* arrives at Sandwich Islands, Honolulu carrying 1400 barrels of sperm whale oil.
- **(4) January 1842:** The Japanese crew remains in Hawaii. Manjiro continues to sail with Captain Whitfield in order to learn navigation from him. Manjiro accepts the Captain's invitation to sail with him to Fairhaven MA to be educated and fostered in his home.
 - The *John Howland* sails the South Pacific for 16 months whale hunting, stopping in Guam for supplies.
 - **(5)** They round Cape Horn, sailing among icebergs up the coasts of the Americas to Massachusetts.

- **May 7, 1843:** *John Howland* sails into New Bedford, Massachusetts May 6, 1843. The following day they disembark. **Manjiro** becomes **first Japanese national to touch foot in the continental United States.** (Thus, Asian Pacific Month is commemorated in month of May.)
 - It is likely Manjiro accompanies the Captain to the Seaman's Bethel in New Bedford, Massachusetts to give thanks for safe voyage.
 - (6) They cross the drawbridge to Fairhaven where they reach 11 Cherry Street and are greeted by the Captain's Aunt Milly. Manjiro is boarded in the home of local friend, Eben Akin, for a brief period while the Captain is away.
- **1843 – 1846:** Captain Whitfield returns and sets up housekeeping with new wife, Albertina, in Fairhaven.
 - Manjiro is fostered by the couple and is called "John Mung", a name given him by the crew of the *John Howland*.
 - He is educated at Bartlett's Academy in Fairhaven for 2 ½ years where he excels in his studies and attends the Unitarian Church in Fairhaven with Captain Whitfield.

The Journey Continues: From New England to whaling in the high seas, and, finally, back to Japan.

- **May 15, 1846:** Manjiro, recruited by Captain Davis, signs on as crew member on the *Franklin*, a whaling ship, in order to get back to Japan. They set sail from New Bedford. This would be the peak year for American whaling!
- **September 1848:** The *Franklin* docks at Honolulu. Manjiro is reunited with the Japanese castaway crew still living there.



- Manjiro sails on the *Franklin* toward Japan. Captain Davis becomes deranged while hunting whales near Guam and the crew relieves him of duties. Manjiro is elected first mate. The ship docks in the Philippines.
- **September 1849:** Manjiro returns to New Bedford on the *Franklin* after 3 years and four months at sea.

- **August 1849:** Upon his return to Fairhaven, Manjiro decides to join the gold rush out in California to earn money to return to Japan.
 - He takes passage on the *Stieglitz*, a lumber ship bound for Shanghai, China via the West Coast. The ship rounds Cape Horn, stops at Valparaiso Chile for provisions and sails up coast to dock in San Francisco, a shanty-town at this time.
 - Manjiro travels down to Sacramento to pan for gold and makes \$600 in gold nuggets to finance his trip back to Japan.
- **October 10, 1850** Manjiro arrives on the *Eliza Warwick* in Honolulu and visits with his old crew mates, including Denzo and Goeman.
- **December 1850:** Manjiro buys a boat that he names *The Adventurer* through the financial help and support of Hawaiians who learn of his plight from a newspaper piece.
 - He receives funds to stock it with gifts for his family including a book entitled, *A Life of George Washington*.
 - Manjiro (called Captain Mung) now accompanied by Denzo and Goeman stow *The Adventurer* and sail on the *Sarah Boyd*, a merchant ship bound for Shanghai, China. Manjiro works as part of crew to get reduced passage. He carries a letter from the U.S. consul in Honolulu to the Japanese authorities requesting kind treatment of the refugees. (At this moment, in Pittsfield Massachusetts, Herman Melville is writing the final chapters of *Moby Dick*.)
- **January 1851:** Manjiro's crew debarks from the *Sarah Boyd* outside **Okinawa**, the largest of the Loo Choo Islands (Ryukyu Islands).
 - *The Adventurer* makes landfall, terrorizing the natives. Manjiro and crew are arrested, interrogated and imprisoned for 7 months Manjiro appeals to Lord Shimazu, a powerful *daimyo* of that region. Believing him innocent, Lord Shimazu transfers Manjiro to Nagasaki.
- **1851 – 1852:** Manjiro and his crew are imprisoned and interrogated – *the Adventurer* and all their possessions confiscated.
 - Manjiro provides valuable information on American life and culture to the Japanese, which is recorded in his book and in drawings.
 - The crew is released after 6 months and allowed to visit their families.
 - Denzo and Goeman arrive in Usa with Manjiro to find their parents have died.
- **October 5, 1852:** Manjiro arrives at his home of Nakanohama twelve years after leaving the village.
 - Mother, brothers, sisters are all astounded to see him and go to local temple to give thanks. The entire village throws a homecoming party. Manjiro's mother brings him to graveyard to show him the tombstone she had made thinking he had been lost at sea.
- **October 8, 1852:** Manjiro is summoned to Kochi castle to report on his experiences to Lord Yamanouchi, the Tosa clan *daimyo*.

- Lord Yamanouchi elevates Manjiro to rank of samurai and allows him to adopt a surname. He chose *Nakanohama* after his village but only used *Nakahama* which carries to this day with his descendants.
- Manjiro Nakahama is put in charge of teaching language and the humanities – English, history, and geography to other samurai.
- He translates the definitive navigation book of its day by Nathaniel Bowditch, *The New American Practical Navigator*, into Japanese.
- **July 8, 1853:** The U.S. Navy under Commodore Matthew Perry sails into Edo Bay (Tokyo Bay). A national emergency is declared. Manjiro Nakahama is summoned to Edo as consultant to the Council of Nobles.
- **August 1853:** Nakahama takes a boat to Osaka and travels to Edo on the Tokaido Road. Perry goes to Hong Kong, and then returns to Edo Bay with a company of nine black warships. Manjiro advises authorities to bring an end to the isolation policy.
- **Spring 1854:** Manjiro Nakahama is summoned again to Edo to provide translations and advice. His influence behind the scenes leads to a peaceful resolution of the crisis.
- **March 31, 1854:** Japan signs the *Treaty of Peace and Amity* with the U.S, signaling the end of Japan's 200-year policy of isolation.
 - Manjiro Nakahama is designated official curator of Commodore Perry's gifts to the Japanese: a telegraph machine, a daguerreotype camera, and a quarter-scale steam railroad train.
- **1854 – 1859:** Manjiro Nakahama works as a designer of ships and teacher of navigation influencing the globalization of Japanese trade and a generation of Japanese naval officers. He writes the first English book for Japanese: *A Shortcut to the English Conversation*.
- **1859** Nakahama is transferred to Hakodate to help establish the Japanese whaling industry.
- **1860 – 1890** Nakahama engages in study, instruction and diplomacy in Japan and abroad:
 - Traveling to Europe for the Japanese government to study military science during the Franco-Prussian war.
 - Receiving an appointment as a naval instructor and becoming captain of first Japanese whaling vessel.
 - Working as a professor of English at Kaiseijo School (Tokyo Imperial University) influencing a generation of Japanese leaders.
- **1870:** During an official trip to the U.S, Manjiro travels back to Fairhaven to visit Captain Whitfield. It is the last time they saw each other.
 - Upon his return to Japan, Manjiro Nakahama, already under suspicion of being a spy, is reprimanded by Japanese government for making this side trip to his foster father.
- **November 12, 1898:** Manjiro Nakahama dies quietly in Tokyo at the age of 71.

The Legacy of Manjiro and Captain Whitfield: A Bridge between Cultures

On July 14, 1918, Manjiro Nakahama's eldest son, Dr. Toichiro Nakahama, a prominent physician and a distinguished personage in the Japanese empire, donates a priceless samurai sword to the town of Fairhaven to commemorate the rescue and kindness shown by the people of Fairhaven to his father, Lieutenant Governor Calvin Coolidge, Acting Governor speaks this tribute during the ceremony:

This sword was once the emblem of place and caste and arbitrary rank. It has taken on a new significance because Captain Whitfield was true to the call of humanity, because a Japanese boy was true to his call of duty. This emblem will hereafter be a token not only of the friendship that exists between two nations but a token of liberty, or freedom, and of the recognition by the governments of both these nations of the rights of the people. Let it remain here as a mutual pledge by the giver and the receiver of their determination that the motive which inspired the representatives of each race to do right is to be a motive which is to govern the people of the earth.

The two families of Manjiro Nakahama and Captain Whitfield remain in contact and continue to make visits across two oceans, through two world wars, for five generations.