

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Circle ALL verbs.**

American whaling was once an exciting and dangerous business. Most whaling voyages lasted for two years, though some might last three or four years. When the ship was near whaling ground, a lookout would constantly be on watch in the crow's nest. His eyes would scan the water for a whale's spout. Whenever the lookout sighted a spout, he would yell, "Thar she blows!" Then the activities began. The whalers would quickly lower boats from the ship and row cautiously toward the whale. When they were almost on top of it, the harpoonist in the bow of the boat would drive a harpoon into the side of the whale. The harpoon had a rope on it which was attached to the boat. If the whale dived too deeply, the men had to cut the rope so that they wouldn't be pulled underwater. If the whale ran, the men were taken for a "Nantucket sleigh ride" which often lasted several hours. After the whale had tired, they brought a boat alongside the whale and killed the whale. The whale was then towed back to the ship so that the cutting and processing of the valuable whale blubber could begin.

