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Of Revenge and Retelling: The Story of the Essex

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The illustrations depicted here constitute two of four images completed for an article on the similarities and distinctions between the facts regarding the sinking of the whale ship Essex and the tale told about the Pequod in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. The freelance job for *Cobblestone* magazine fed my love of literature, history, and natural history, as well as researching mammals and difficult perspectives. One aspect of working as a freelance illustrator is that you never know what you will be asked to learn about and research so the process truly becomes a collaboration between artist, art director, editor, and author, where one individual's expertise complements another's.