



## USS Constitution Museum

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Chronology of *USS Constitution*

1794 March 27	The Naval Armament Act authorizes the construction of six frigates
1794–1797	Under construction at Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, Boston
1797 October 21	USS Constitution launched
1798 July 22	Sails from Boston to Caribbean on first cruise
1798–1801	Quasi-War with France; West India Squadron flagship, 1799–1801
1801–1803	In ordinary and repair, Boston (To say that a ship was “in ordinary” meant that it was temporarily out of commission in a dry dock or harbor. When ships were placed in ordinary crews removed their masts, rigging, sails, and guns, and stored them ashore. Today, a ship in a similar state is said to be “mothballed.”)
1803–1805	Barbary War, Mediterranean Squadron flagship
1805–1807	Mediterranean Squadron flagship
1807–1809	Repair in New York
1809–1810	Flagship of the “northern division of ships for the protection of the American coast.”
June 1810–1811	Northern Squadron, Captain Isaac Hull in command
Aug. 1811–Feb. 1812	Voyage to France, England, and Holland
1812–1815	War of 1812 1812 August 19: Defeats HMS Guerriere 1812 December 29: Defeats HMS Java 1815 February 20: Defeats HMS Cyane & HMS Levant
1816–1821	In ordinary and repair, Boston
1821–1824	Mediterranean Squadron flagship
1824–1828	Mediterranean Squadron
1828–1831	In ordinary, Boston
1832–1835	Undergoes significant refit, Boston
Mar. to June 1835	Voyage to France with Minister to France Edward Livingston
Aug. 1835–July 1838	Mediterranean Squadron flagship
April 1839–Nov. 1841	Pacific Squadron flagship
Nov. 1842–Feb. 1843	Home Squadron flagship

May 1844–Sept. 1846	Around the World Cruise – sailed 52,370.5 miles
1846–1848	In ordinary and repair, Boston
Oct. 1848–1851	Mediterranean Squadron
1849 August 1	Pope Pius IX visits ship at Gaeta, Italy
1851–1853	In ordinary and repair, New York
Mar. 1853–June 1855	African Squadron flagship 3 Nov 1853 Captures slaver <i>H.N. Gambriel</i> , <i>Constitution's</i> last prize
June 1855–July 1857	In ordinary, Portsmouth, NH
July 1857–Aug. 1860	Refit and converted to school ship, Portsmouth, NH
Aug. 1860–Sept. 1871	School ship, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD & Newport, RI (USS <i>Constitution</i> returned to Annapolis with the Naval Academy Civil War ended)
1871–1872	In ordinary, Philadelphia, PA
1873–Jan. 1877	Refit, Philadelphia, PA
1877	Training ship, Philadelphia, PA
1878–1879	Transports U.S. exhibits to Paris Exposition
1879–1881	Apprentice Training Squadron
1881–1882	In ordinary, New York
1882–1897	Receiving ship, Portsmouth, NH
Sept. 1897	Returns to Boston for 100th birthday
1897–1906	On exhibition, Boston
1906–1907	Restoration
1907–1926	On exhibition
1927–1931	Restoration
1931–1934	National Cruise (three-coast tour), returns to Boston
1934–1972	On exhibition in Boston 1940 August 24 Named symbolic flagship of U.S. fleet 1947 150th birthday 1949–1954 Repair 1954 July 3 Boston designated as homeport by Congressional Act, Public Law 523
1973–1976	Restoration
1976–1992	On exhibition in Boston 1976 April 8 USS Constitution Museum opens in Building #22, Charlestown Navy Yard 1976 July Leads Tall Ships parade, Queen Elizabeth II visits for

national bicentennial

1992–1996	Restoration	
	<b>1997</b>	
	July 21	Sails for the first time in 116 years
	October 21	USS Constitution's bicentennial
	<b>1998</b>	USS <i>Constitution</i> Bicentennial Salute
	July 23–26	(International ships salute USS Constitution's extraordinary career.)
2008-2010	Restoration to return ship closer to 1812 appearance	

### For Further Reading:

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