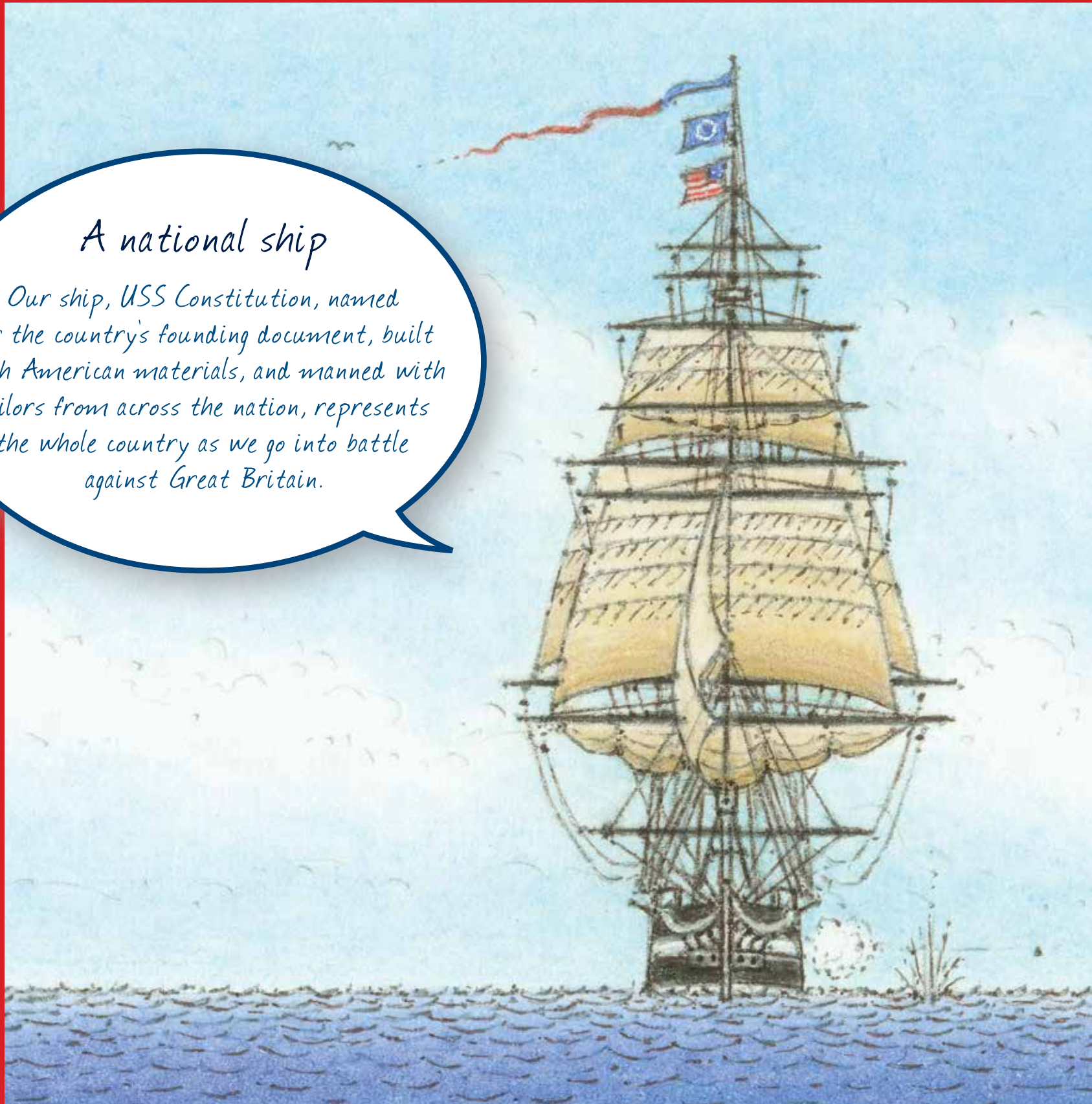


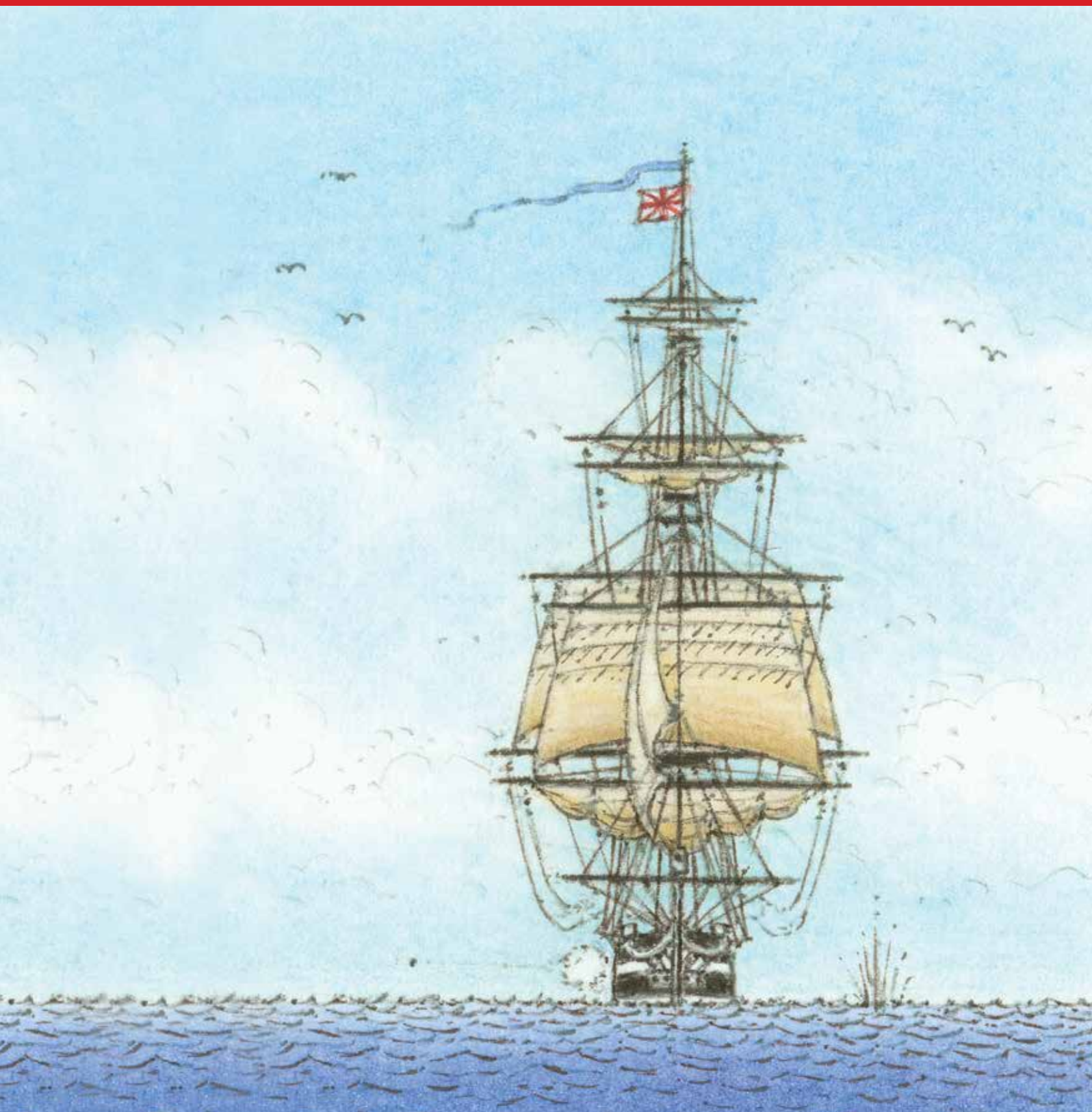
# SAIL TO VICTORY

## *A national ship*

*Our ship, USS Constitution, named for the country's founding document, built with American materials, and manned with sailors from across the nation, represents the whole country as we go into battle against Great Britain.*







## ANTICIPATION

*An enemy ship  
has been spotted!*

*The drum beats, sending all hands to  
prepare for battle. In a flurry of activity we  
quickly ready the Ship for the fight. Breathlessly  
we hasten to our battle stations for the long  
painful wait. Hour after hour in tortured  
silence we contemplate our fate while we  
watch the enemy ship approach.*





### What do sailors feel as they wait for battle to begin?

**Fear** – Sailors worry that they or their friends might not survive the battle. What frightens you?

**Excitement** – The adrenaline pumps as the moment the sailors have been training for arrives. How do you feel when something you've waited for is about to happen?

**Anxiety** – Sailors are nervous because no one knows the outcome of the battle. What makes you anxious?



Illustration from the sketchbook of Lewis Ashfield Kimberly, 1857-1860  
Kimberly was Lieutenant on board USS Germantown in the 1850s  
Collection of the USS Constitution Museum, Boston

#### In My Own Words

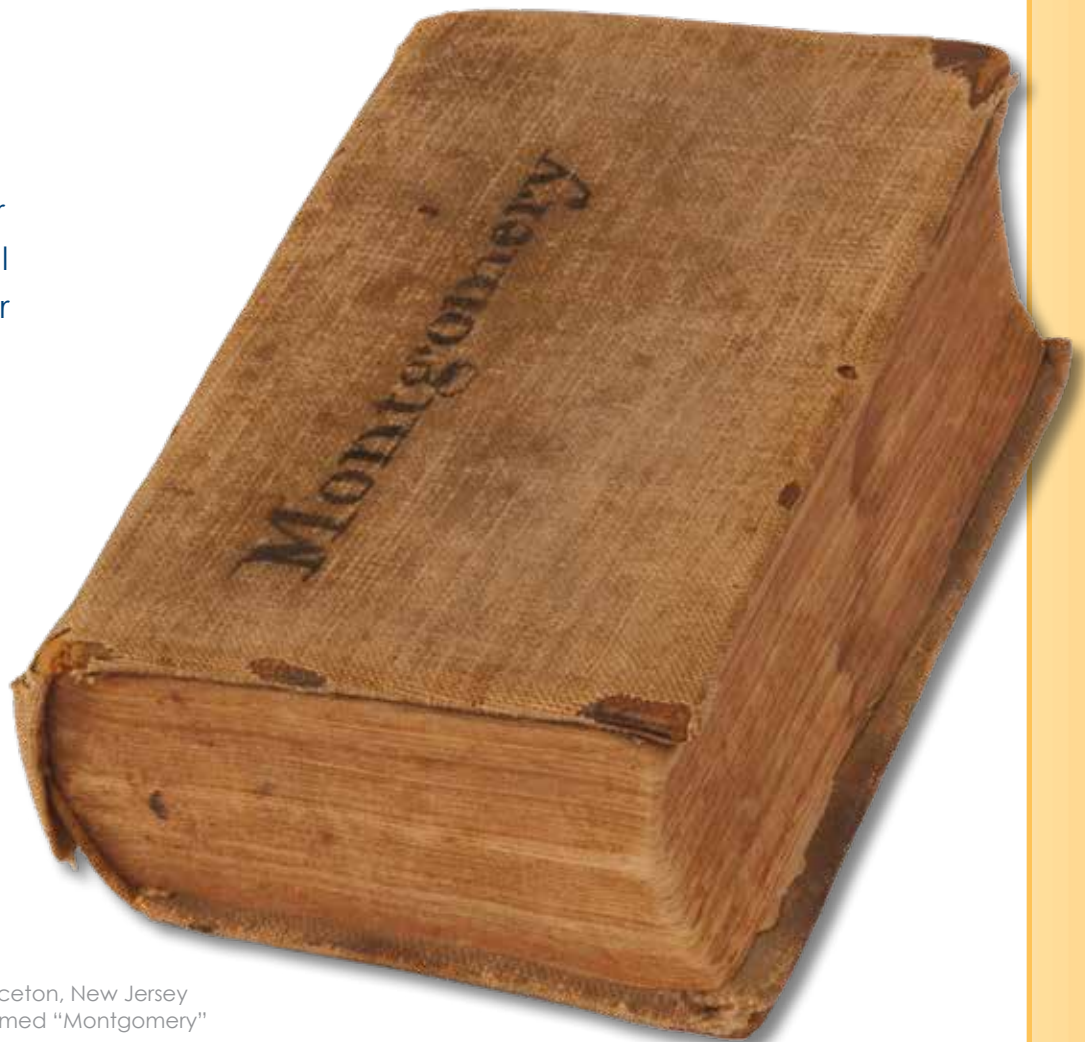
"My pulse beat quick - all nature seemed wrapped in awful suspense - the dart of death hung as it were trembling by a single hair, and no one knew on whose head it would fall."

-Seaman David C. Bunnell, 1813



## Gun Crew's Bible

As sailors waited for battle to begin, they were alone with their thoughts. They had time to dwell on the fear that they might never see their families again. Some gun crews strapped a Bible like this one to their cannon's carriage for extra protection.



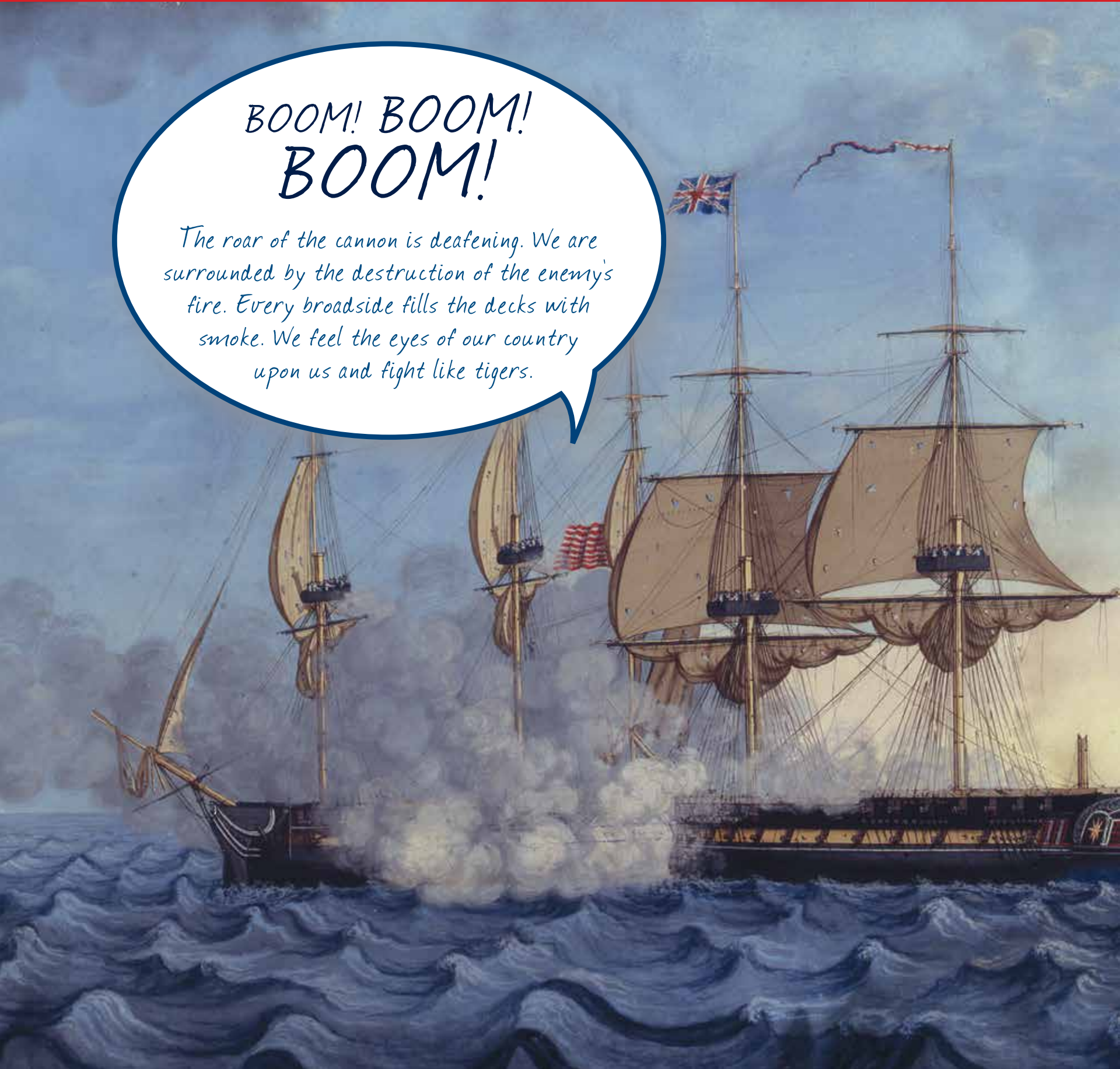
Bible issued by the Bible Society of Nassau Hall, Princeton, New Jersey  
Bible was strapped to the carriage of a gun nicknamed "Montgomery"  
on board USS *President*, 1813  
Collection of the USS Constitution Museum, Boston



# ENGAGEMENT

*BOOM! BOOM!  
BOOM!*

*The roar of the cannon is deafening. We are surrounded by the destruction of the enemy's fire. Every broadside fills the decks with smoke. We feel the eyes of our country upon us and fight like tigers.*





## What are the characteristics of a brave sailor?

**Courage** – Sailors push fear aside to do their job. What have you done that took courage?

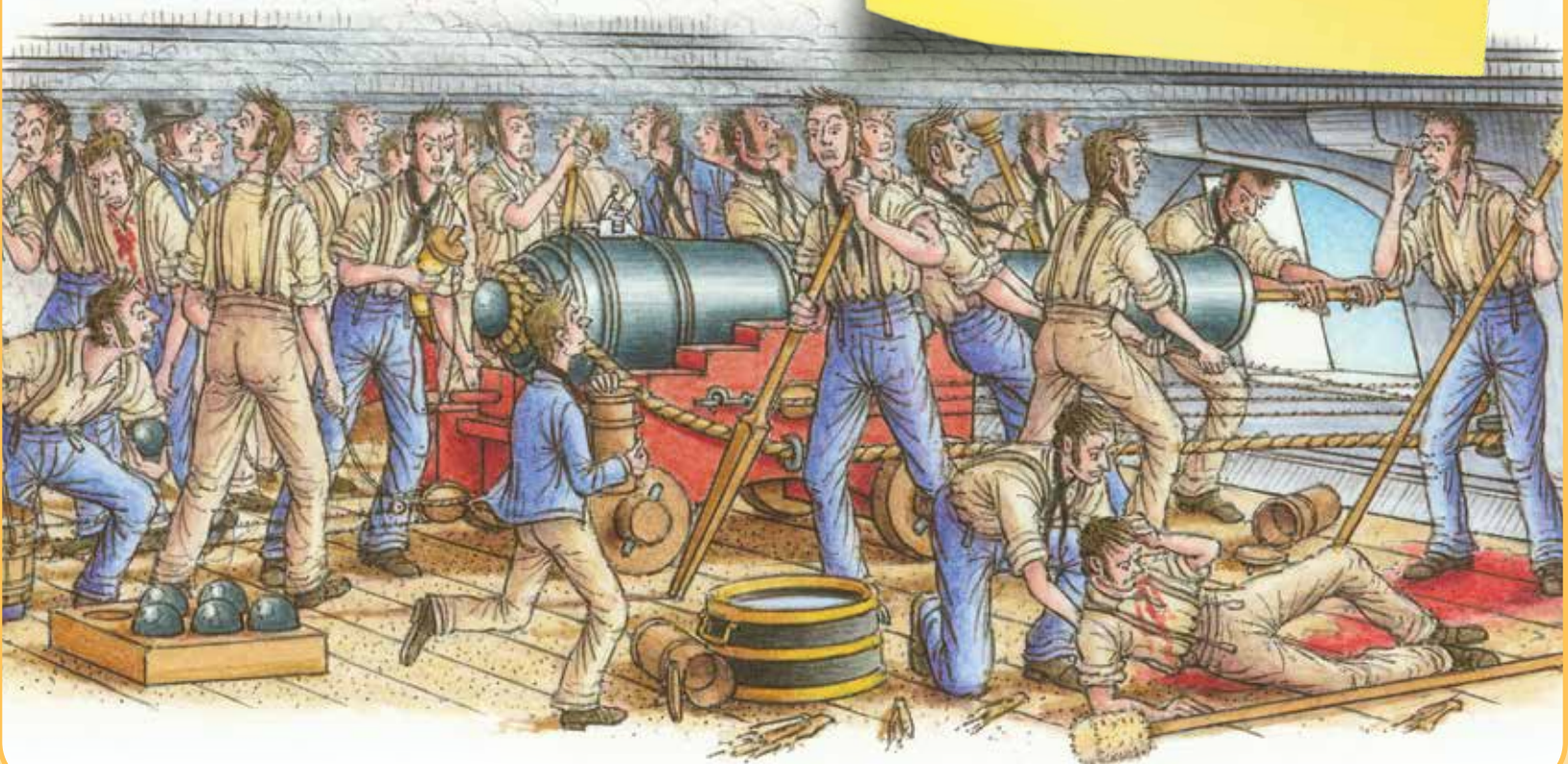
**Responsibility** – Each sailor has to do his duty to his country, ship, and shipmates. What are your responsibilities to your community, school, or family?

**Team Player** – Working together is critical to succeed in battle. How do you work or play as part of a team?

### In My Own Words

*"We're so close (to HMS Guerriere) we can see the whites of the eyes and count the teeth of the enemy.."*

*-Seaman Moses Smith,  
1812*





## USS *Constitution* vs. HMS *Guerriere*

Follow Captain Isaac Hull's diagram and read his descriptions of the battle that made *Constitution* famous.

3:45 pm

"All clear for action"

*Constitution's* crew shortens sail and runs out the guns, ready for battle.

6:20 pm

"... in less than fifteen minutes from the time, we got alongside [firing broadside after broadside], his Mizen Mast went by the board ..."

6:30 pm

As the two ships collide, marines prepare to board *Guerriere* "but the instant the Boarders were called ... his Foremast, and Mainmast went by the board."

7:00 pm

With the "Enemy totally disabled," *Guerriere* surrenders by firing a gun to leeward.

Isaac Hull's Battle Diagram, 1821; Private collection

Get  
History **BUFF**





## Play Battle It Out

### The object of the game

It is August 19, 1812 - USS *Constitution* and HMS *Guerriere* face off in battle 600 miles off the coast of Boston. Refight this historic battle to see which ship can outgun its opponent and sail to victory.

### You will need:

Battle It Out game board

2 playing pieces (select two pieces from another game or use buttons, coins, etc)

2 dice

1 coin

Pencil and paper to keep score

### Getting started:

Divide the players into two teams. One team will be playing for the United States Ship *Constitution*, and the other for the British Ship *Guerriere*.

Each team selects a playing piece and places it on their start space. The American team moves along the blue track, and the British team moves along the red track.

### Playing the game:

**To Move:** When it's your team's turn, roll the dice and advance that number of spaces ahead.

**To Fire:** If you land on a space in a firing zone where your opponent is, your team can fire its ship's guns. Firing is only permitted when both ships are in the same zone at the same time.

To get a hit in the...

*Short-range firing zone:* Flip a coin once. If you get heads, you've scored a hit.

*Long-range firing zone:* Flip a coin twice. If you get heads both times, you've scored at hit.

Keep track of how many hits each team earns.

**Bonus hit:** If you land on a white space and your opponent is on an adjacent square you get an automatic hit.

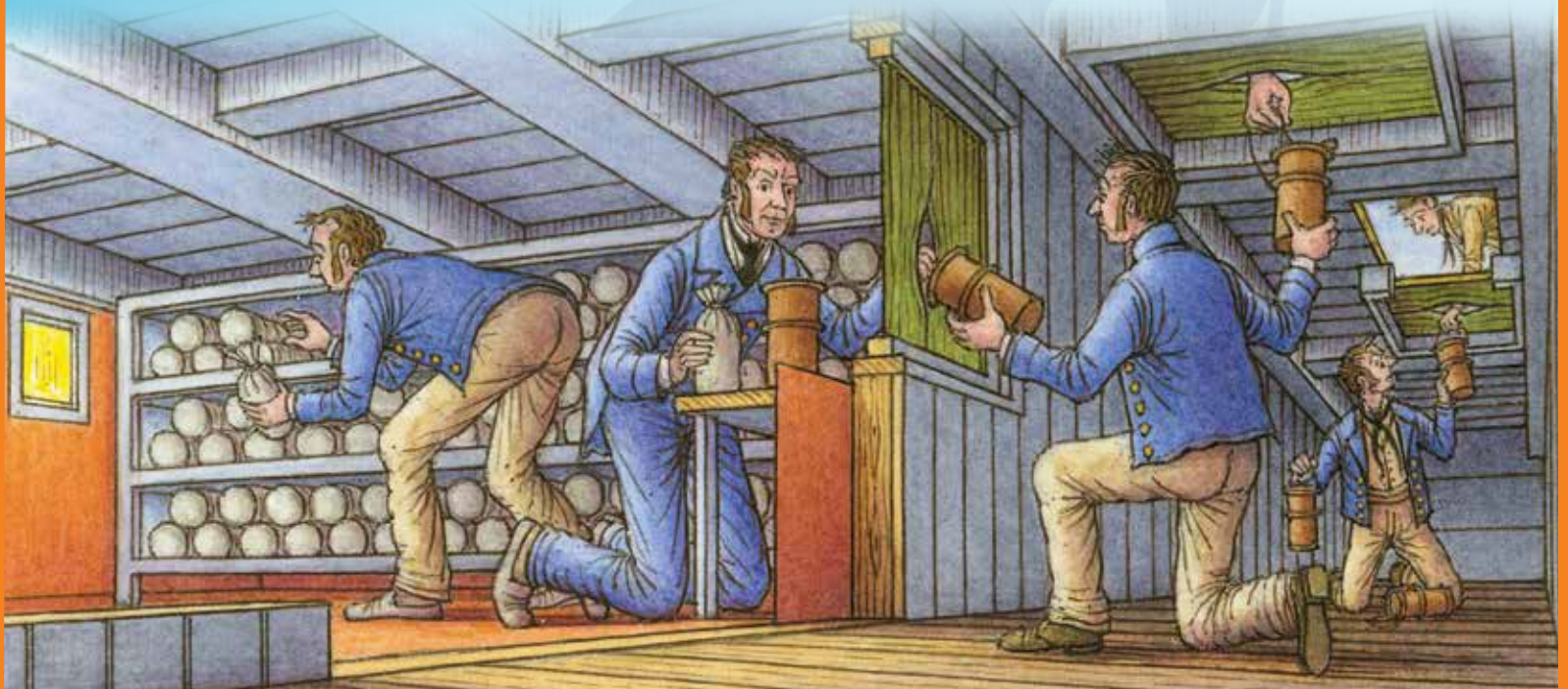
**Winning the game:** The ship that is first to hit its opponent six times is the winner.



## Did women participate in battle?

On board the British ship *Guerriere* women helped carry the powder to the guns (cannon). *Constitution* sailor Moses Smith witnessed this and wrote, "The women they had with them were engaged in passing powder, and other munitions of war. Amid such activity on the decks of the enemy, courage and prudence demanded that we should be active on our own."

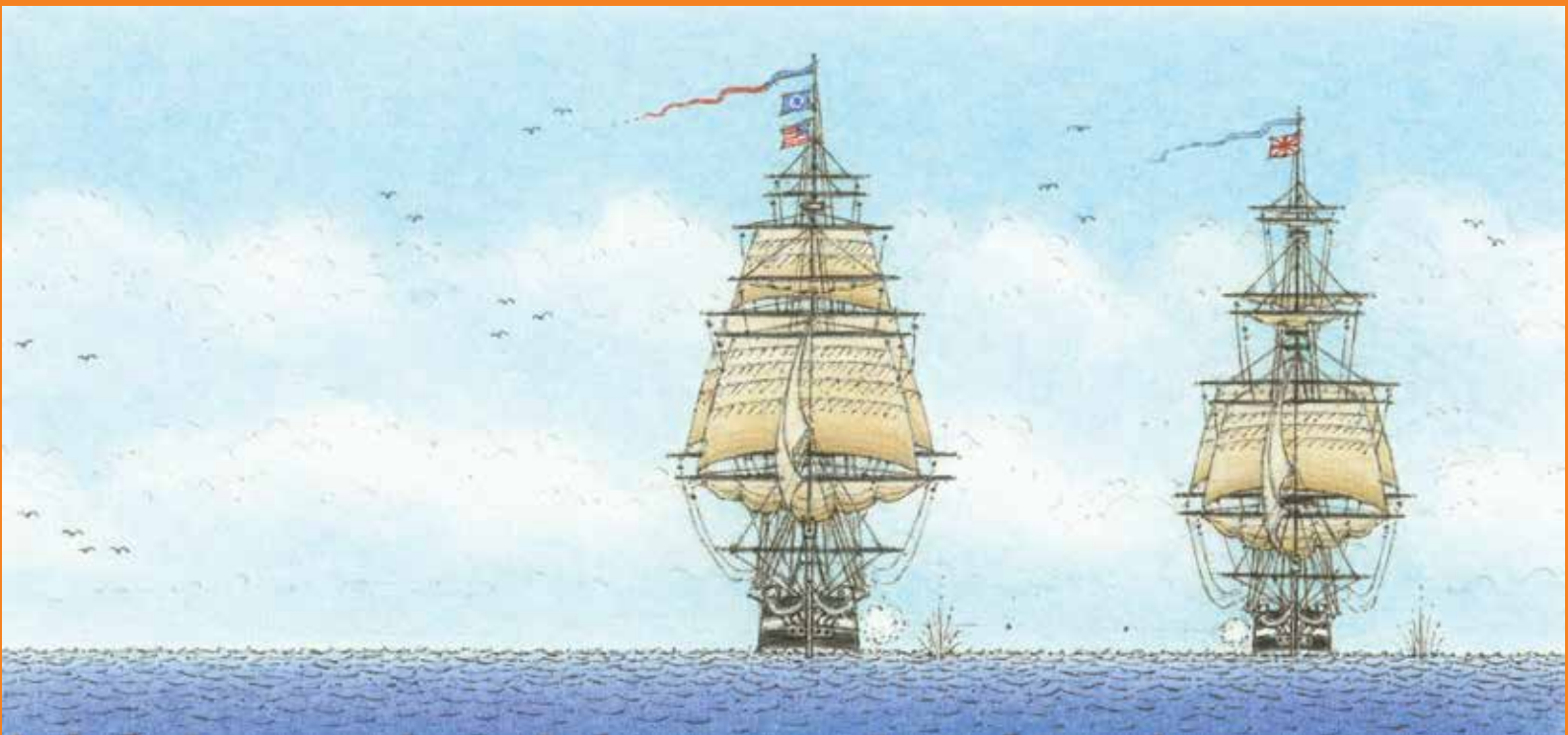
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Ready ... Aim ... Fire! Go online to lead your gun team to victory. Click on the "Hands-on Activities" link on [www.asailorslifeforme.org](http://www.asailorslifeforme.org).







## How USS *Constitution* earned the nickname “Old Ironsides”

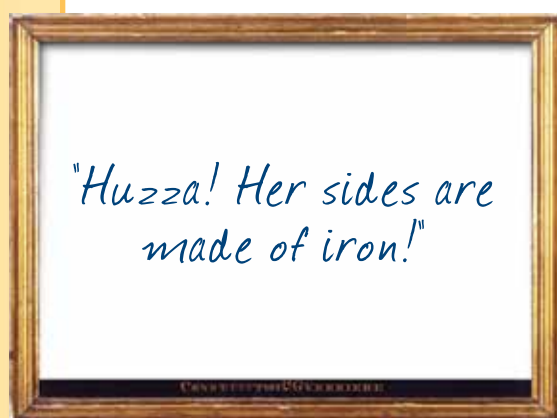
On August 19, 1812, USS *Constitution* engaged HMS *Guerriere* in an epic battle. Amidst the deafening roar and choking smoke of cannon fire, a sailor watched as cannonballs bounced off *Constitution*'s thick wooden sides. In amazement, he cried out, “Huzza, her sides are made of iron!” Ever since, the Ship has been affectionately known as “Old Ironsides.”

Get  
History **BUFF**



## Draw the Missing Moment

For 200 years artists have depicted *Constitution's* battle against HMS *Guerriere*, like the series of paintings below by George Ropes, Jr. None have illustrated the defining moment when the Ship earned her nickname, "Old Ironsides." Help fill in the gap in the historic record by making your own drawing of that missing moment.



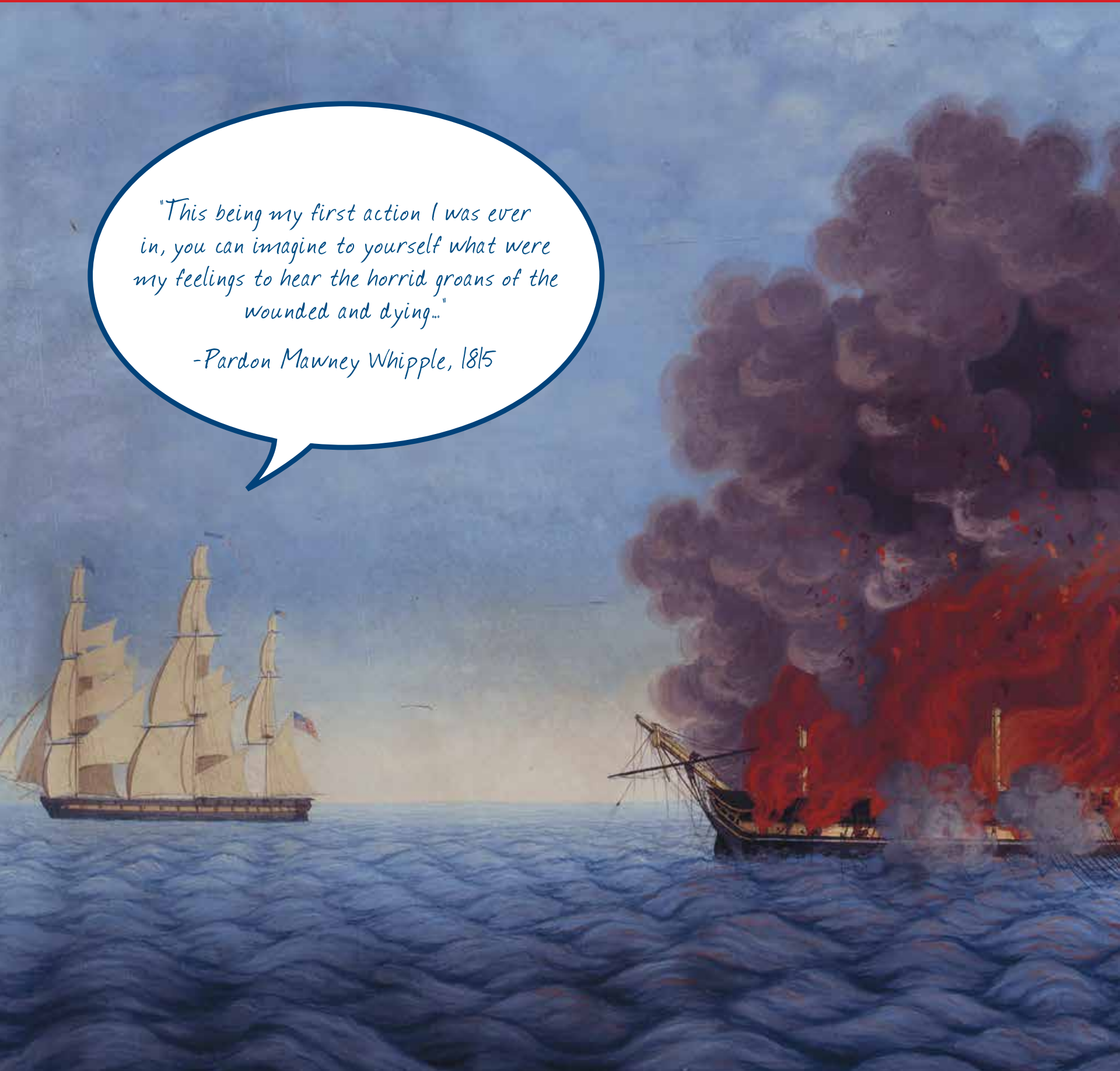
"Constitution and Guerriere" by George Ropes, Jr., 1813  
Collection of the USS Constitution Museum, Boston



## AFTERMATH

*"This being my first action I was ever  
in, you can imagine to yourself what were  
my feelings to hear the horrid groans of the  
wounded and dying..."*

*-Pardon Mawney Whipple, 1815*





### Who am I?

*I am called Amos Evans, though the men know me instead as "Saw-Bones." I learned medicine from Ben Rush, one of our nation's greatest physicians. My love of the sea led me to become a navy surgeon's mate in 1808 (though I might have earned four times more ashore). After two years I was promoted to full surgeon, and I sailed with Constitution in June 1812.*

#### In My Own Words

*"'You are a hard set of butchers,' was all I said to the surgeon, as my torn and bleeding limb was severed from my body."*

*- Seaman Richard Dunn,  
August 20, 1812*

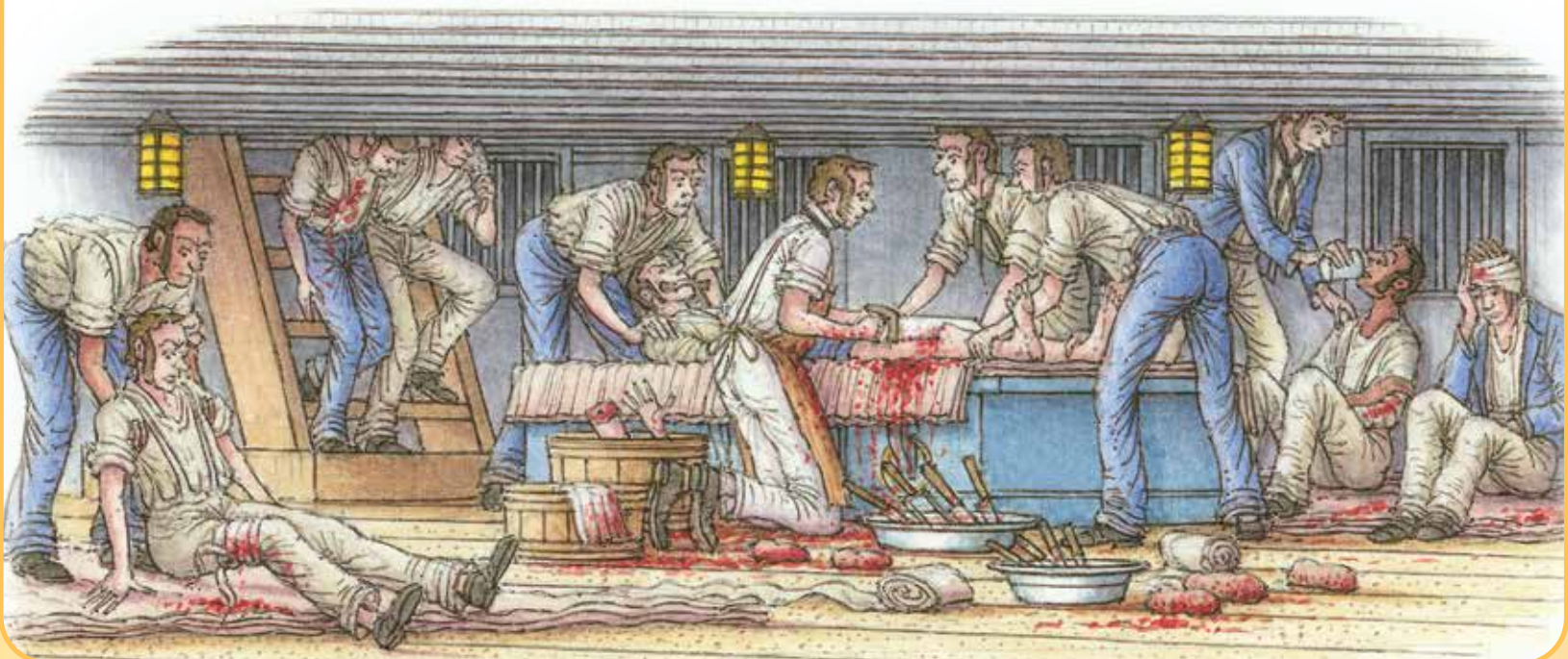




## Bone Saw

This bone saw is a surgeon's tool of last resort. He uses it to remove the mangled leg or arm of a wounded sailor. The sailor is awake during the operation so a good surgeon cuts with great speed. After battle, the surgeons from the two ships work together to ease the suffering of all the wounded.

Bone Saw from the Surgeon's Medical Chest owned by William Swift, early 19th century  
Swift was Surgeon on board USS *Chesapeake* during the War of 1812  
Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society







## What do sailors feel after battle?

**Compassion** – Sailors show concern for those injured during the battle. How do you show compassion?

**Horror** – Sailors are shocked to see the destruction caused by their guns. How do you feel when your words or actions hurt someone?

**Pride** – Sailors feel a sense of accomplishment after winning the battle. How do you feel when you win something?

### In My Own Words

*"I do not mind the day of battle, the excitement carries one through; but the day after is fearful; it is so dreadful to see my men wounded and suffering."*

*- Captain Isaac Hull, 1812*

