**U.S.S. Constitution**

The **U.S.S. Constitution** was named by President George Washington in honor of the new American Constitution. It is the oldest ship that is still active today in the US Navy. It was first launched in 1797 when it fought France in the Quasi War, Pirates in the First Barbary War, and England in the **War of 1812**. The U.S.S. Constitution has three tall masts and was built from wood, but it got the nickname **Old Ironsides** because it survived and won so many navy battles. People joked that it sides must be made of iron instead of wood because enemy cannonballs seemed to bounce off its sides instead of sinking the ship.

In 1925 people began repairing and rebuilding the original ship so that it could be preserved as an important part of **American history**. In 1934 “Old Ironsides” was returned to Boston where it is still used as a museum today. 2012 was the last time it sailed solely by the power of wind in its own sails.

**American History Old Ironsides**

**USS Constitution American History**

**U.S.S. Constitution**

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