



# UNITED STATES NAVY SEABEE MUSEUM

**Destroyers** are small versatile ships the Navy started to use in World War I. Originally called “Torpedo-boat destroyers”; these ships are nicknamed “Tin Cans” because of their thin steel hulls. Destroyers tend to be lighter and faster than other ships in a fleet, which makes them fast and versatile. Destroyers were used to protect ships traveling together in a ‘convoy’ from enemy submarines and surface ships. Most importantly, the Destroyers protected the aircraft carriers they are traveling with.

**Iron-hulled Steamships** were also known as “Ironclads” due to the heavy iron armor. Though well protected, Sailors found them to be hot, stuffy and uncomfortable for any length of time. The USS *Monitor* was the first U.S. Navy ironclad war ship and was designed to operate in shallow coastal waters and rivers. The *Monitor* had a “Turret” with two heavy guns that could turn-around in any directions, thus eliminating the need for separate rows of gun like on the decks of ‘frigates’ and ‘side-wheelers.’ The *Monitor* was powered by steam, eliminating the need for sails.

**Frigates** were wooden warships that were the first six ships in the U.S. Navy. They were able to sail quickly across the sea with square-rigging, and three masts which allowed them to outrun ships that were more powerful. Frigates were made of oak, pine, and elm wood, and had several decks. The frigate’s job was to protect American merchant ships at sea, battle enemy ships, and capture their cargo. Modern day frigates still serve this same purpose. The USS *Constitution*, one of the original six frigates, was launched in 1797 and is still an active U.S. Navy warship. She is moored in Boston, Massachusetts.

**The Side-Wheel Steamer** was a blending of two ships in the Navy; sailing ships and steam-driven ironclads. The “Side-Wheel Steamer” had wooden masts and hulls, however the hull, boilers, and engines were all made of iron. Sails were good on windy days, but on calm days the steam engines were used, so there was no need to depend on wind alone. There were two steam powered ‘paddle-wheels,’ one on each side of the ship, that were used to move the ship through the water. The ‘paddle-

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wheels' were easy targets for the enemy, which led to the use of underwater propellers.

**Battleship:** the name describes its mission, to do battle with other ships at sea. At the opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, battleships were the Navy's largest ships. Battleships were covered in steel armor, and carried the Navy's heaviest guns. A battleship would have a crew of about 1,000 Sailors and Marines, making it the largest shipboard community. To show the strength of the United States, President Theodore Roosevelt sent the battleships of the US Navy, called the "Great White Fleet," around the world in 1907.

**Aircraft Carriers** are airports at sea. They are the largest ships in the Navy, and are about 1,000 feet long. They are capable of launching, recovering, and repairing each of the around 75 aircraft carried on board. The ship's airplanes and helicopters take off and land on the large, flat flight deck. Many sailors have to work together to control the busy traffic on the flight deck. The carrier has a crew of about 5,000 who work, eat, and sleep together for months at a time. The carriers protect the fleet, and can be used as an offensive force as well. The very first aircraft carriers were built at Mare Island, California.

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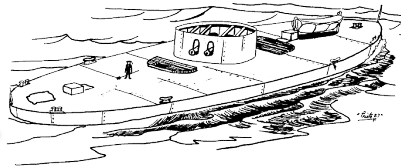
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## Ships at Sea Game

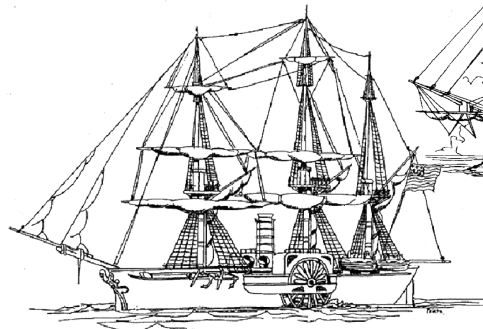
The Seabees are a part of the U.S. Navy, a branch of the military that operates at land and sea. Seabees are sailors who are trained in construction; their motto is, "we build, we fight."

*Seabees need to know their ships at sea. Draw a line to match the ship name with the correct ship. We've done the first one!*

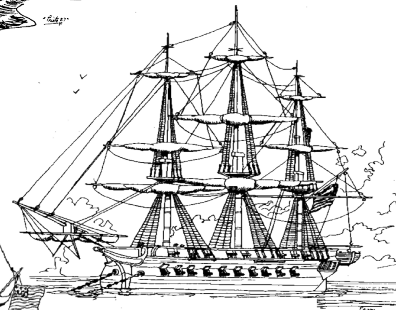
Battleship



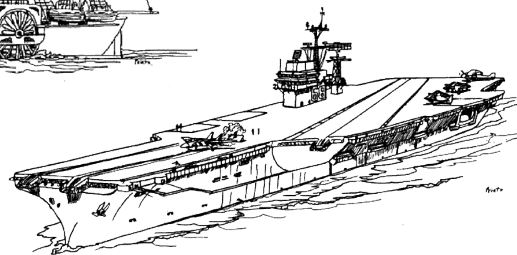
Destroyer



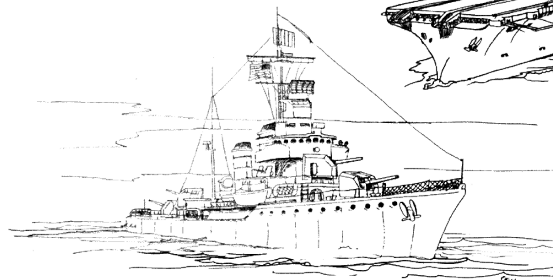
USS Monitor



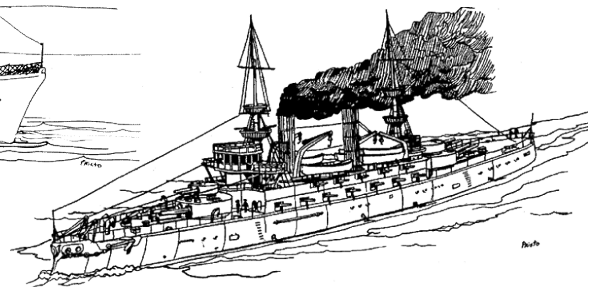
Frigate



Side-Wheel Steamer



Aircraft Carrier



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## Ships at Sea Game

Please use the **ANSWER KEY** below to assist students with the worksheet.

Seabees need to know their ships at sea. Draw a line to match the ship name with the correct ship. We've done the first one!

Battleship

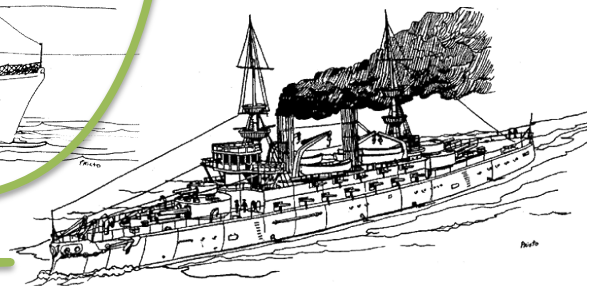
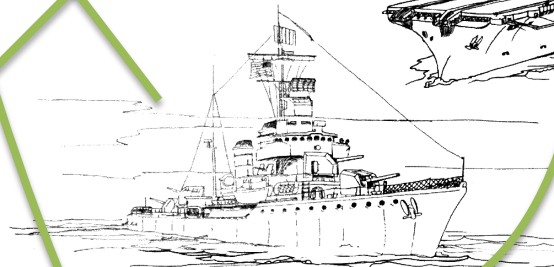
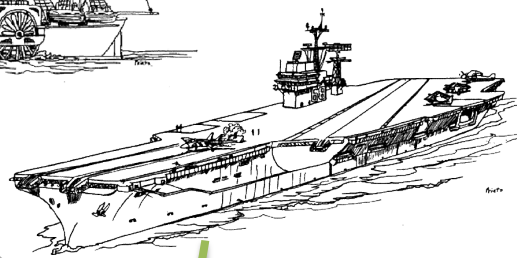
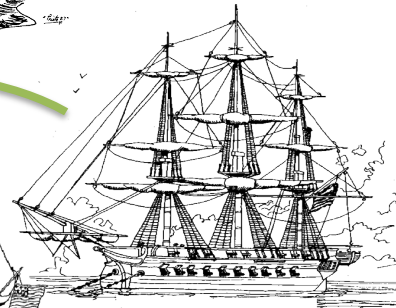
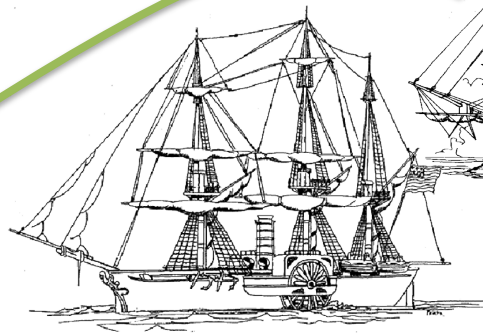
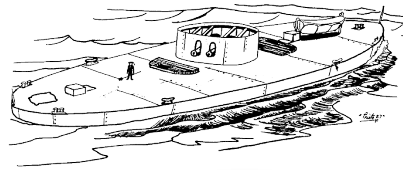
Destroyer

USS Monitor

Frigate

Side-Wheel Steamer

Aircraft Carrier



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