

Constitution's "Retirement" Fact Sheet

Around the World Cruise

When: 1844-46

Where: from Norfolk, Virginia, she sailed to New York to pick up crew, then around the world and back to Boston, Massachusetts. The places she visited included Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Mazatlan, Mexico; Madagascar; Zanzibar (Tanzania); Singapore; Borneo; Cochinchina (Vietnam); Canton, China; Manila, Philippines; Sandwich Islands (Hawaii); Monterey Bay, California; and Valparaiso, Chile

What: a 892-day diplomatic and information-gathering mission covering about 52,300 miles

Why: to support American trade, to establish coaling stations to refuel American steam ships, to make foreign contacts, to collect seeds, plants and rare specimens for natural history study and to gather information on foreign ports and nations

Who: under the command of Captain John "Mad Jack" Percival

Slave Patrol

When: 1853-55

Where: off the coast of Africa

What: captured American slave ship *H.N. Gambrell* off the coast of Angola.

Why: to stop the illegal slave trade

Who: *Gambrell* capture was under Commodore Isaac Mayo

School Ship

When: 1860-71

Where: Annapolis, Maryland and Newport, Rhode Island

What: served as a classroom, dormitory and training ship for midshipmen at the Naval Academy

Why: to give midshipmen a chance to concentrate on learning sea skills without other duties

Transport Vessel

When: 1878-79

Where: from America to the Paris Exposition in 1878

What: carried railroad cars and a locomotive — 1,029 tons of exhibits of USA-manufactured goods and raw materials

Why: The Paris Exposition was a world's fair where each country displayed its latest inventions and goods.

Historic Attraction

When: 1897-present

Where: Boston, Massachusetts

What: Congress authorized funds and private groups provided donations to keep *Constitution* in good repair for receiving visitors.

Why: Many Americans were proud of her, loyal to her and wanted to preserve her.

Who: Massachusetts Congressman John F. Fitzgerald introduced one of the first resolutions in Congress to save *Constitution* in 1897. Many other individuals and groups carried the effort forward.

National Cruise

When: 1931-34

Where: to 76 ports in 21 states of the United States, to Cuba and Panama and to the Pacific via the Panama Canal

What: traveled 22,000 miles and was visited by 4,614,762 people

Why: to thank all the people, including thousands of school children, who had contributed to restoring her; to show them how wonderful she looked and to give them a sense of pride in what they had accomplished

Who: Commander Louis J. Gulliver was the commanding officer for the tour