



# PATRIOTS & PIRATES

Opening at Independence Seaport Museum in 2015



Independence  
Seaport Museum



# Patriots and Pirates

From intrigue and exploits on the high seas to the unsung deeds of hometown heroes, the story of the birth of the American Navy is as exciting as any adventure tale by Herman Melville or Robert Lewis Stevenson – full of inspiration and ingenuity; bravery and back-breaking work; fear and fortitude. **And it all began in Philadelphia.**

Following the dismantlement of the Continental Navy after America's War for Independence, our nation's merchant sailors were at the mercy of foreign powers which **boarded our ships, looted our cargoes, kidnapped our sailors** and forced them into military service, and demanded ransoms and protection payments.

Established to combat these pirates, from the state-sanctioned piracy of the French and British to the mercenary pirates of the Barbary Coast, the U.S. Navy was **America's line in the sand** - its refusal to bow to the intimidation of foreign powers any longer and rather exercise its rights as a sovereign nation.



**“Ay, ay!** We sailors sail not in vain. We expatriate ourselves to nationalize with the universe; and in all our voyages round the world we are still accompanied by those old circumnavigators, the stars, who are shipmates and fellow-sailors of ourselves – sailing in heaven's blue, as we on the azure main.”

*White Jacket* by Herman Melville

Presented in groundbreaking and innovative ways, this little-told story is the **BIRTH OF THE NAVY**

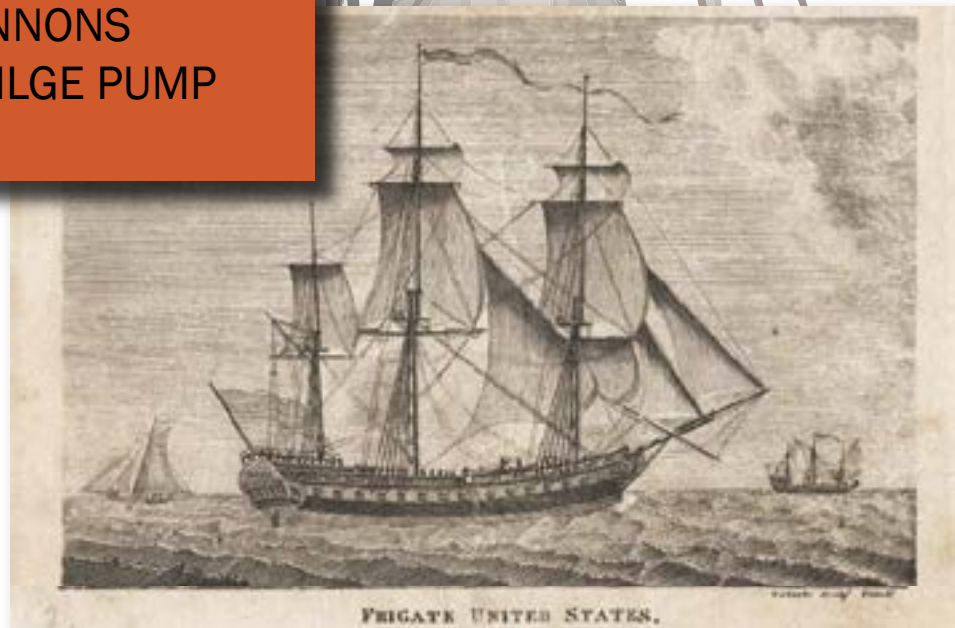
Immersive and interactive elements – **masts that can be climbed, cannons that can be fired, sails that can be furled** – will propel visitors into the center of the story where they will imagine themselves as 18th-century sailors, enlisting in the Navy to defend America's shores or, perhaps, as pirates boarding American ships.





The centerpiece of Patriots and Pirates will recreate the environment of the very first ship commissioned for the new American Navy – **THE FRIGATE UNITED STATES**. Our replica will feature five elements faithfully reproduced by the staff and volunteers of the Museum's own Workshop on the Water:

- A SHIP'S WHEEL
- MAST AND SAILS
- A CAPSTAN
- CANNONS
- A BILGE PUMP



A frigate is the ideal place to illustrate the **Six Simple Machines**, demonstrating the physics of mechanical advantage and fulfilling school curricular standards.

- Inclined Plane
- Wedge
- Screw
- Lever
- Pulley
- Wheel







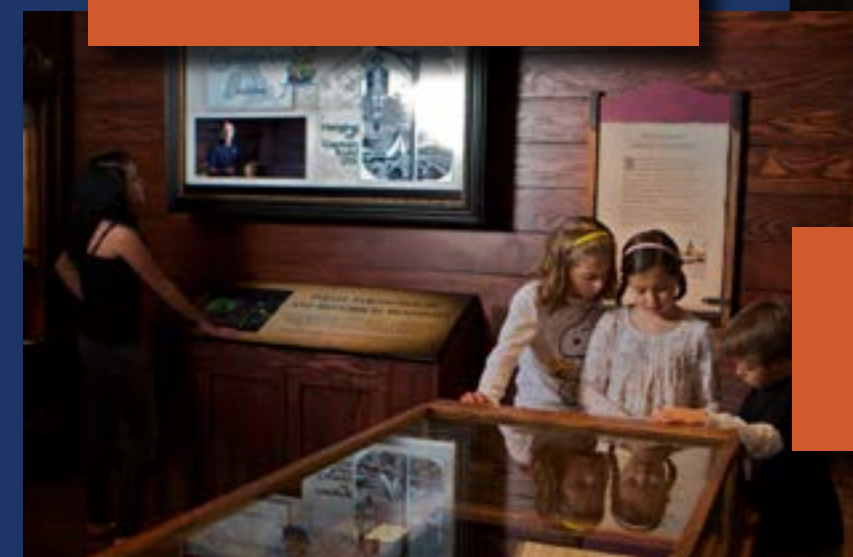
More than just creating a stage for experiential learning, Patriots and Pirates will integrate the curriculum- based elements of **S.T.E.A.M., History** and **Literacy** into the exhibit in engaging and compelling ways.

\*(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math)

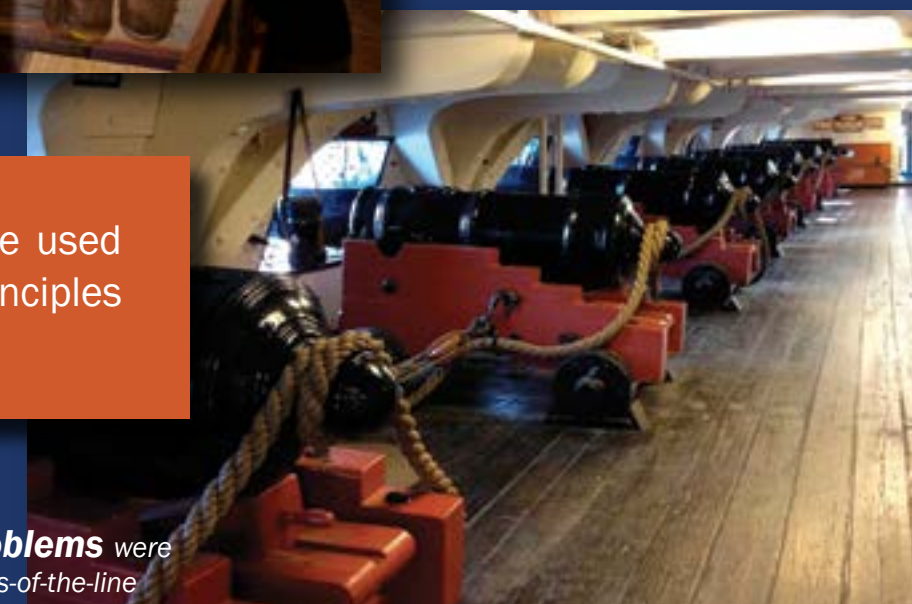
Patriots and Pirates will introduce vocabulary words and terms used in daily speech today – such as *scuttlebutt*, *clear the decks*, and *learning the ropes* – that originated in maritime parlance.



Navigation exercises will be used to teach geometry.



Cannons will be used to teach the principles of trajectory.



**“...mystical mathematical problems** were solved by the midshipmen, and great ships-of-the-line were navigated over imaginary shoals by unimaginable observations of the moon and the stars, and learned lectures were delivered upon great guns, small arms, and the curvilinear lines described by bombs in the air.”

*White Jacket* by Herman Melville





Layering of the multiple perspectives of history, science, art, vocabulary, and first person narrative, from sources as varied as Captains John Barry and William Bainbridge to the fictional sailor of Herman Melville's *White Jacket* (a stand-in for Melville who himself served on the *United States*), provide a rich experience for the casual visitor and student alike.



A rich, layered educational approach will appeal to a variety of the Museum's target audiences including multi- and inter-generational families, schoolchildren, and lifelong learning groups.



Patriots and Pirates will serve as a prototype for a permanent gallery on the same theme which will be the central feature of the new Seaport. **It will introduce a new interpretive approach – one that is layered, integrated, interactive, and immersive.**

**“There was a public library on board,** paid for by government, and entrusted to the custody of one of the marine corporals... He kept them in a large cask on the berth-deck, and, when seeking a particular volume, had to capsize it like a barrel of potatoes. This made him very cross and irritable, as most all librarians are.”

*White Jacket* by Herman Melville

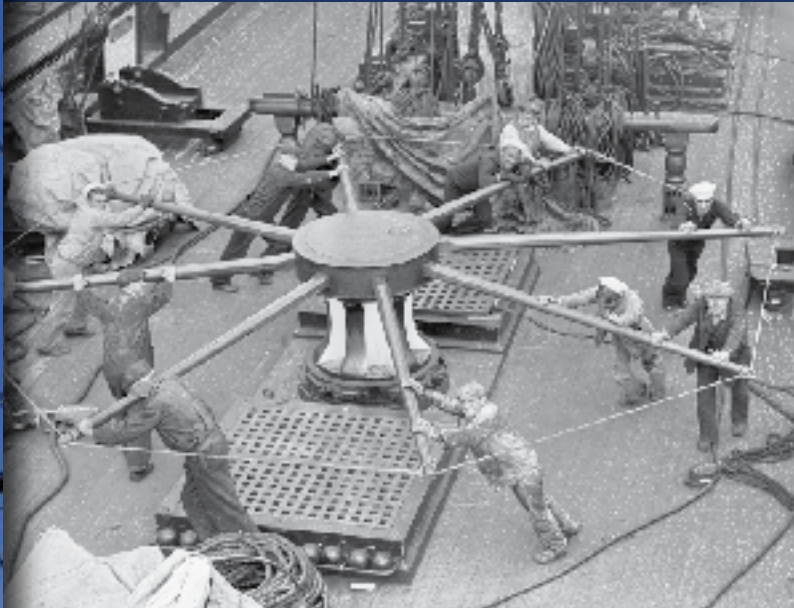




Core Values:

- **HISTORY**
- **SCIENCE**
- **ART**
- **COMMUNITY**

Patriots and Pirates exemplifies the Museum's commitment to four core values. Like all the exhibits under development, Patriots and Pirates will present an experiential, hands-on portal into the exploration of these values.



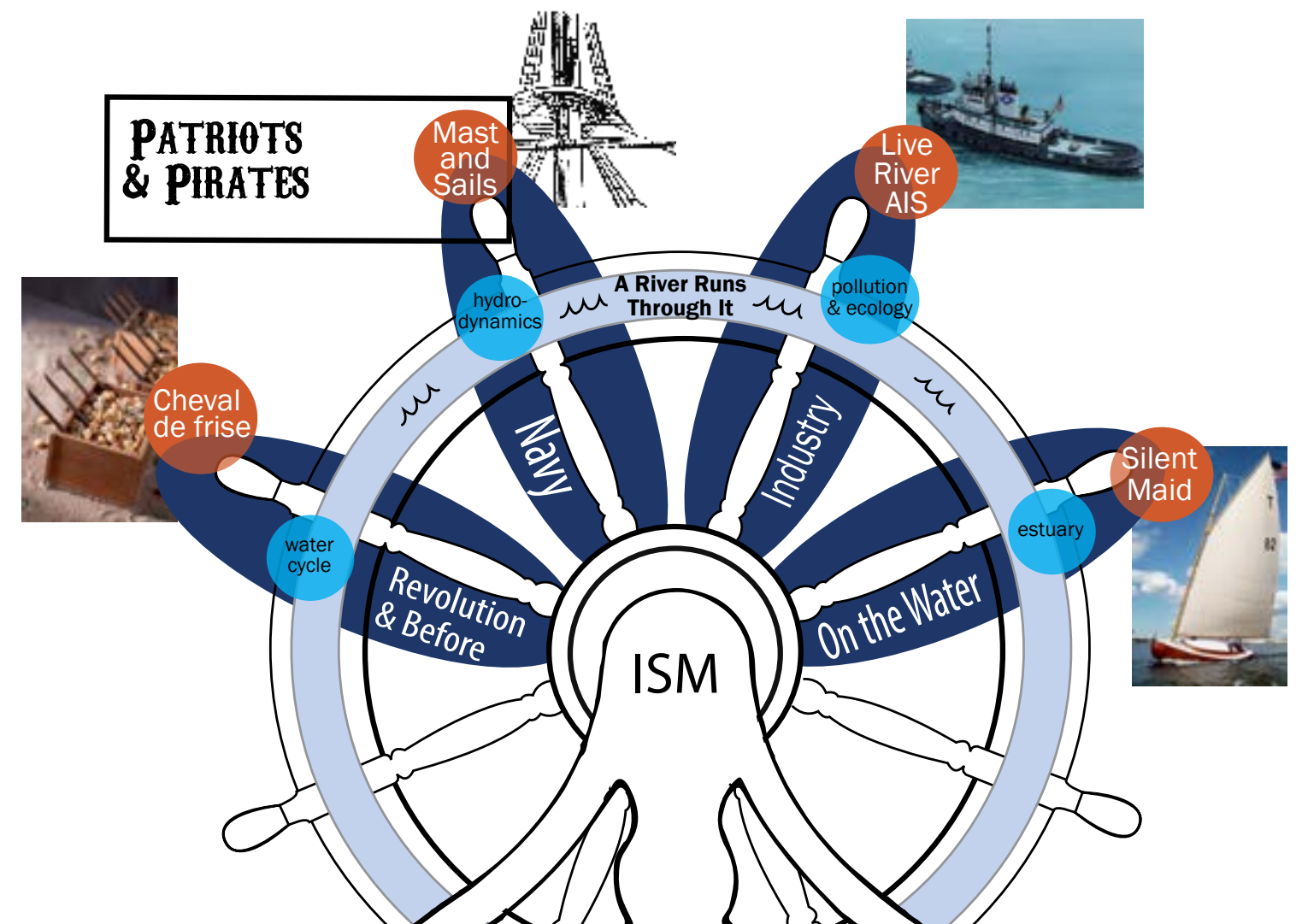
**“They are an old weather-beaten set,** culled from the most experienced seamen on board. These are the fellows who spin interminable yarns about Decatur, Hull, and Bainbridge; and carry about their persons bits of the ‘Old Ironsides,’ as Catholics do the wood of the true cross.”

*White Jacket* by Herman Melville

**Patriots and Pirates is a template for our future.**



Independence Seaport Museum is focusing on **four main content areas**, each one with an **iconic element** and a **water science element**. Patriots and Pirates represents one of those content areas.





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