



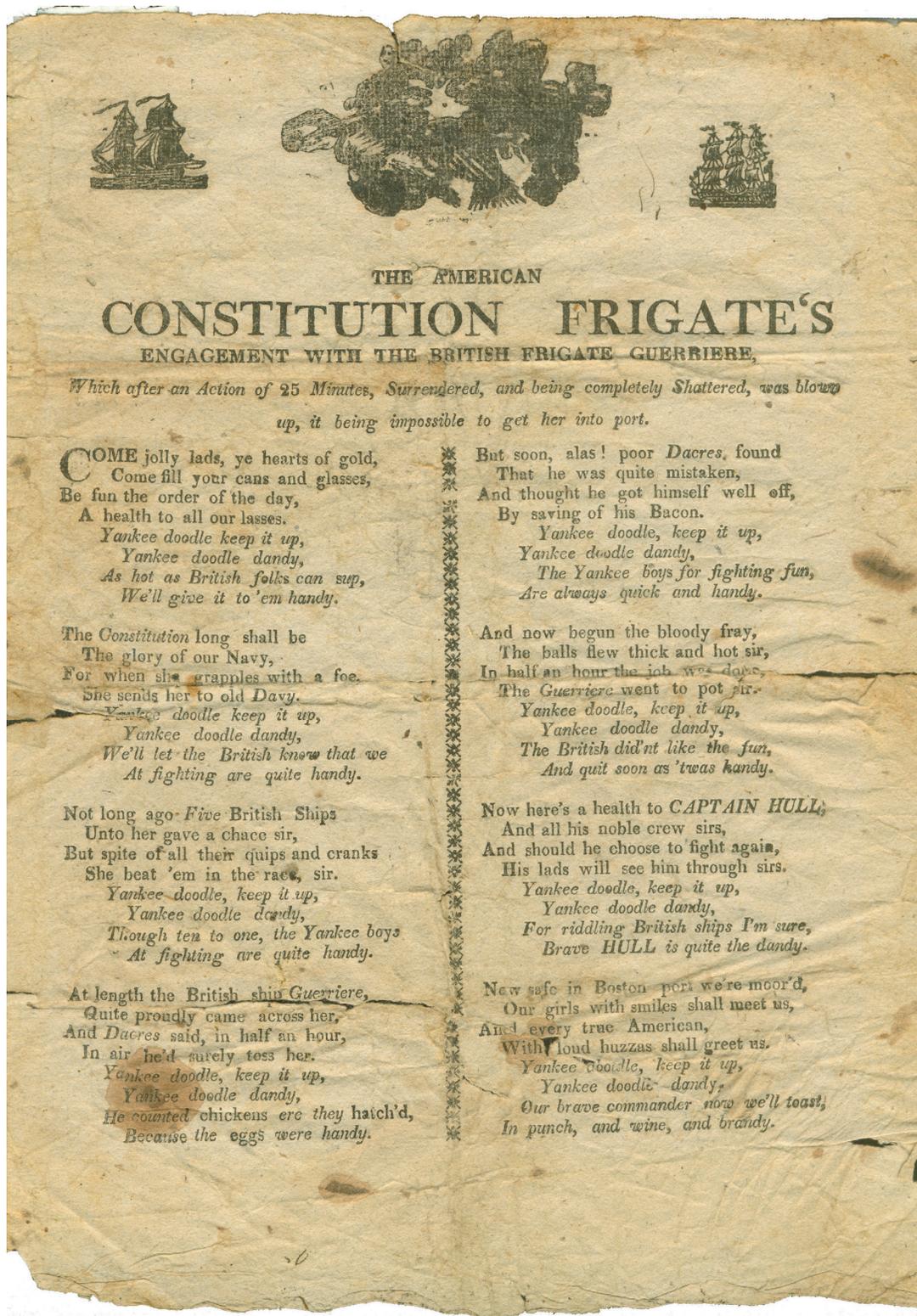
ACTIVITY

## Creative Writing: Broadside Poem

This broadside enthusiastically captures Bostonians' excitement about USS *Constitution's* victory over HMS *Guerriere* on August 19, 1812. The poem's rhythm and chorus make it clear that it was sung to the familiar tune of "Yankee Doodle." In this activity, students are invited to sing the broadside's poem to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," and then write their own poem or lyrics to the same tune.

# Creative Writing: Broadside Poem

Huzza for *Constitution*! This song was printed shortly after *Constitution*'s victory over HMS *Guerriere* on August 19, 1812. Set to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," it celebrates the ship's brilliant naval victory that earned her the nickname "Old Ironsides" and made her a national symbol.



## Create your own song set to the tune of “Yankee Doodle” to celebrate an important moment in your family’s life.

This song was sung in taverns across the country. Give it a try and sing along. Here are the words to the song from the broadside:

### Broadside

Come jolly lads, ye hearts of gold,  
come fill your cans and glasses,  
Be fun the order of the day,  
A health to all our lasses.

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
As hot as British folks can sup,  
We’ll give it to them handy.*

The Constitution long shall be  
The glory of our Navy,  
For when she grapples with a foe  
She sends her to old Davy.

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
We’ll let the British know that we  
At fighting are quite handy.*

Not long ago Five British ships  
Unto her gave a chase sir  
But spite of all their quips and cranks  
She beat ‘em in the race, sir.

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
Though ten to one, the Yankee boys  
At fighting are quite handy.*

At length the British ship Guerriere,  
Quite proudly came across her,  
And Dacres said, in half an hour,  
In air he’d surely toss her.

### Definitions

ye = you  
can = mug

a health = a toast

sup = eat

old Davy = Davy Jones, the spirit of the sea

At fighting are quite handy = are very good at fighting.

Unto her gave a chase = chased her  
quip = sarcasm; crank=easy to upset

Yankee = American

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
He counted chickens ere they hatched,  
Because the eggs were handy.*

ere = before

But soon, alas! Poor Dacres found  
That he was quite mistaken,  
And thought he got himself well off,  
By saving of his Bacon.

alas! = "oh no!" or "too bad!"  
Dacres was HMS *Guerriere's* captain  
(pronounced DAY-kers)

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
The Yankee boys for fighting fun,  
Are always quick and handy.*

And now begun the bloody fray,  
The balls flew thick and hot sir,  
In half an hour the job was done,  
The *Guerriere* went to pot sir.

balls = cannonballs

went to pot = fell apart

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
The British didn't like the fun,  
And quit soon as 'twas handy.*

'twas = it was

Now here's a health to Captain Hull  
And all his noble crew sirs  
And should he choose to fight again,  
His lads will see him through sirs.

Hull was USS *Constitution's* captain.

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
For riddling British ships I'm sure,  
Brave Hull is quite the dandy.*

riddling = bothering, pestering, or filling  
with cannonballs

Now safe in Boston port we're moored,  
Our girls with smiles shall meet us,  
And every true American,  
With loud huzzas shall greet us.

huzza = hooray

*Yankee doodle keep it up,  
Yankee doodle dandy,  
Our brave commander now we'll toast,  
In punch, and wine, and brandy.*