ACTIVITY

How Do You Compare?

Use these statistics to see how students compare to a U.S. Navy sailor and Marine on USS *Constitution* in 1812. This activity includes statistics, gleaned from primary resources, about the people who served on the ship.

How Do You Compare?

How do YOU compare to the average Marine on board *Constitution* in 1812?

How tall are you?

The average height was 5' 7 ¼". The shortest Marine was 5' 1 ⅛" and the tallest 6' 3".

How old are you?

The average age was 26 years. The youngest Marine was 15, the oldest 41.

Where were you born?

Nearly 70% of *Constitution*'s Marines were born in the United States, and of those, 37% hailed from Massachusetts. Men from Ireland, Holland, Great Britain, Canada, and France also served in the ship's detachment.

What color are your eyes?

The most typical eye color was blue.

What color is your hair?

The majority of Marines had brown hair.

What is your occupation?

Prior to joining about 40% of *Constitution*'s Marines worked as artisans or craftsmen, including butchers, bakers, blacksmith, tailors, plasterers, shoemakers, silver platers, and coachmakers. Most of the other men were farmers or laborers before joining the Marines.

This information is based on Marine Corps Size Rolls that recorded the personal information of recruits to aid in the recovery and identification of deserters.

How do YOU compare to the average Sailor on board *Constitution* in 1812?

How tall are you?

The average height was 5' 6".

How old are you?

The average age was 27 but a few were under 15 and over 50.

What color are your eyes?

The most typical eye color was gray (shade of blue).

What color is your hair?

The majority of sailors had brown hair worn short or tied back in a short queue (braid).

Are you African American?

7-15% of sailors were free men of color.

Do you have any tattoos?

5-10% of sailors had tattoos. Designs often included initials, anchors, hearts, or a cross.

Do you have any marks?

A seafaring life left many sailors with scars, burns, and missing fingers.