



ACTIVITY

## Strange Sailor Food

This short quiz helps students discover the ingredients in some of the meals served to USS *Constitution's* sailors. Ask your students to take a closer look at some of the ingredients. What factors would make it easy or difficult to access, store, and prepare these ingredients at sea? Consider the environment, the time out to sea without any port calls (stops ashore), and the current technology in 1812.

# Strange Sailor Food

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Lobscouse

*Constitution's* seamen enjoy a stew with the curious name of "lobscouse", which has five ingredients in all. What do you think is in it, besides salt beef? Circle the other four ingredients.

Fresh Beef

Flour

Potatoes

Sauerkraut

Salt beef

Sugar

Raisins

Pork

Molasses

Biscuit

Onions

## Dunderfunk

A mess cook on *Constitution* is a popular man if he can mix up a dunderfunk and get it cooked. But what is it made of? What do you think is in it, besides molasses? Circle the other four ingredients.

Molasses

Water

Pickled cucumbers

Flour

Biscuit

Garlic

Bacon

Dried herring

Rice

Beef fat



# Strange Sailor Food (Answer Key)

## Answer Key: Ingredients in Lobsouse

There is no special recipe for lobsouse, but it always includes beef, and either biscuits or potatoes – sometimes both. Boiled for hours, it gets as thick as porridge. Seamen spoon it up hungrily, because it’s warming, and gives them plenty of energy.

**Biscuit**

**Salt beef**

**Potatoes**

**Flour**

**Onions**

## Answer Key: Ingredients in Dunderfunk

Dunderfunk is the closest thing seamen get to dessert. Collecting the ingredients is difficult, and getting it baked brown is an even tougher challenge. First the ship’s cook must be bribed for space in the stove. Then, unless it’s jealously guarded, there is always the chance that someone will steal the dunderfunk while it’s baking.

**Molasses**

**Beef fat**

**Flour**

**Biscuit**

**Water**

