



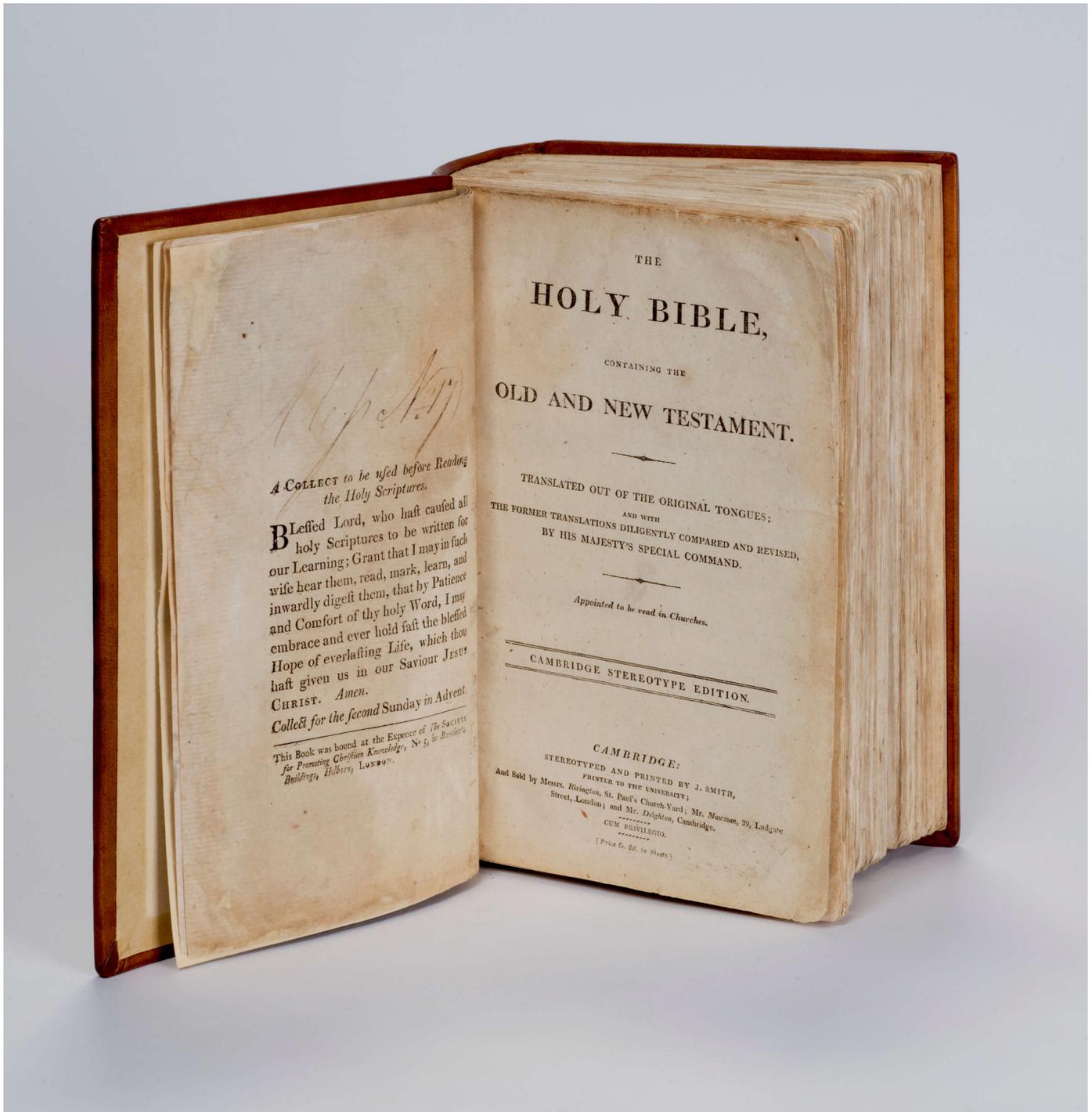
ACTIVITY

Team Identity

Each gun on *Constitution* was manned by the same gun team in practice and in battle. The men developed a team identity and named their gun, much as sports teams today are unified under a team name. Guns were normally named after famous American generals or patriots and, while many men did not consider themselves religious, a Bible was often strapped to the gun carriage to serve as a talisman or charm to ward off evil. A surviving example of this is a Bible that was removed from USS *President*. It was found strapped to a gun named “Montgomery,” after General Richard Montgomery, who fell during the attack on Quebec in 1775. Another example of a bible comes from British ship HMS *Java*. After viewing the objects, ask students to think of times in their own lives when they bonded over a shared team identity. What is their team or school named for? What are the qualities that this name inspires them to emulate?



King James Bible removed from USS *President*



King James Bible removed from HMS *Java*

This King James Bible was removed from HMS *Java* after the British ship's capture by USS *Constitution* on December 29, 1812. Following a ship's surrender, it was common practice for the captors to scour the enemy's decks for battle souvenirs to take home.