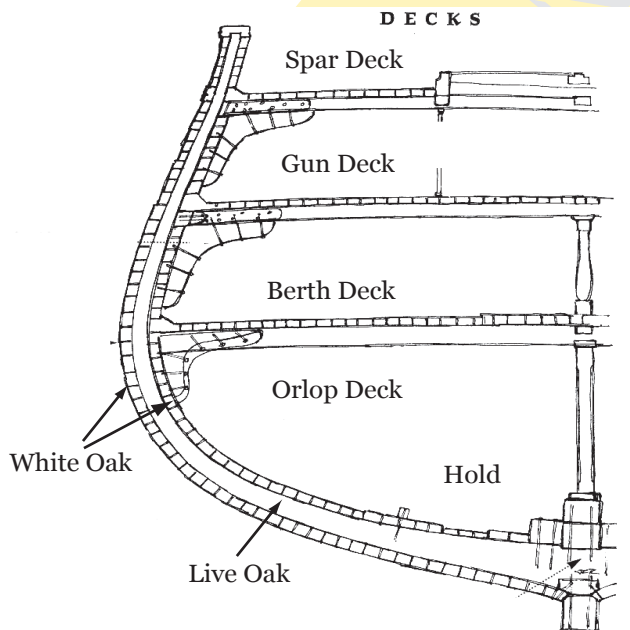


# CONSTRUCTING CONSTITUTION

In 1794, Congress passed the Act to Provide a Naval Armament. This Act gave the United States government permission to build six new warships and establish what is now the United States Navy. Ship designer Joshua Humphreys built *Constitution's* hull using a combination of white oak and live oak. Live oak is five times more dense (and therefore stronger) than any other type of oak and is the “iron” in “Old Ironsides.” You may not have live oak lying around your house today, but you can certainly try to put yourself in Joshua Humphreys’ shoes! Follow the directions and use the provided templates to construct your very own USS *Constitution*!

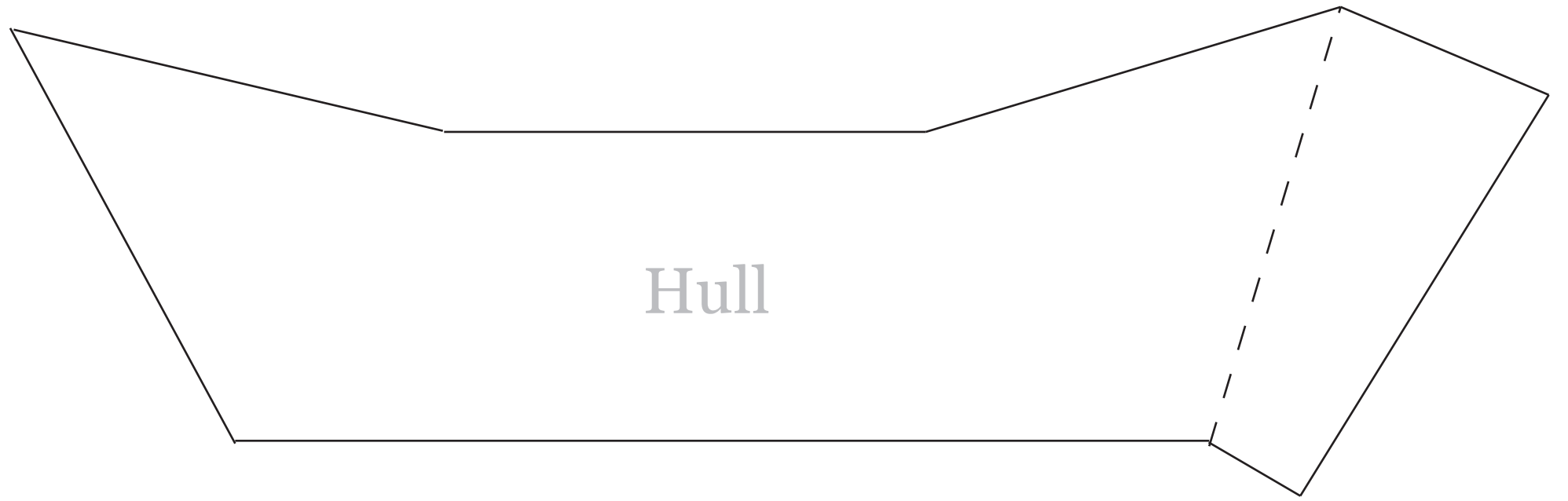
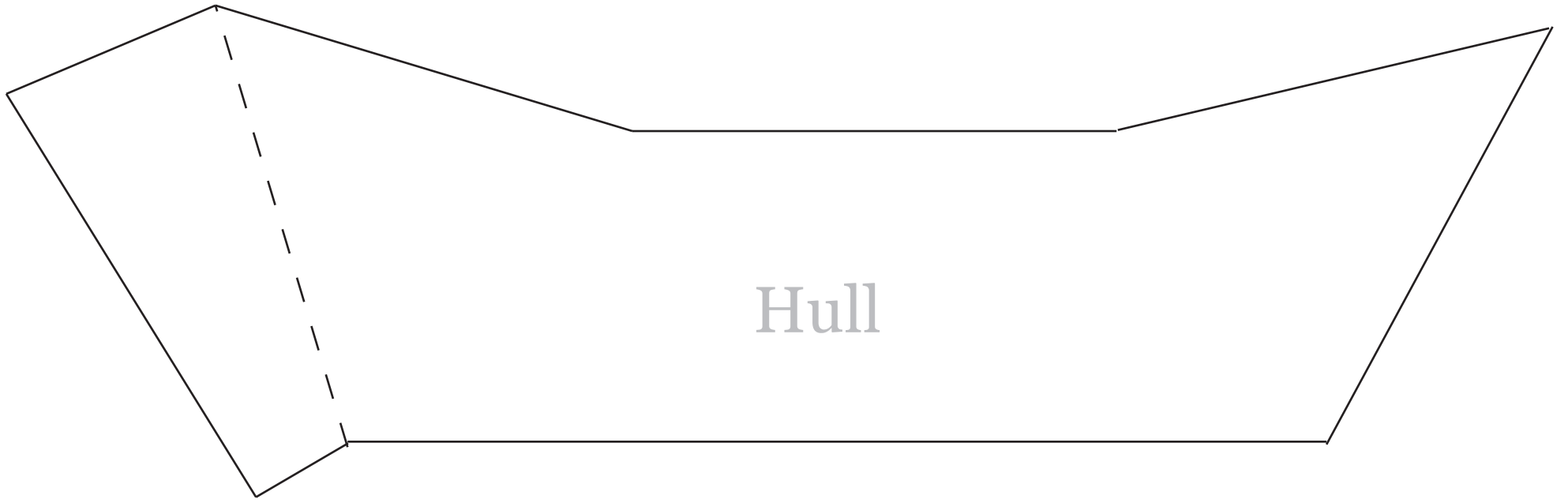


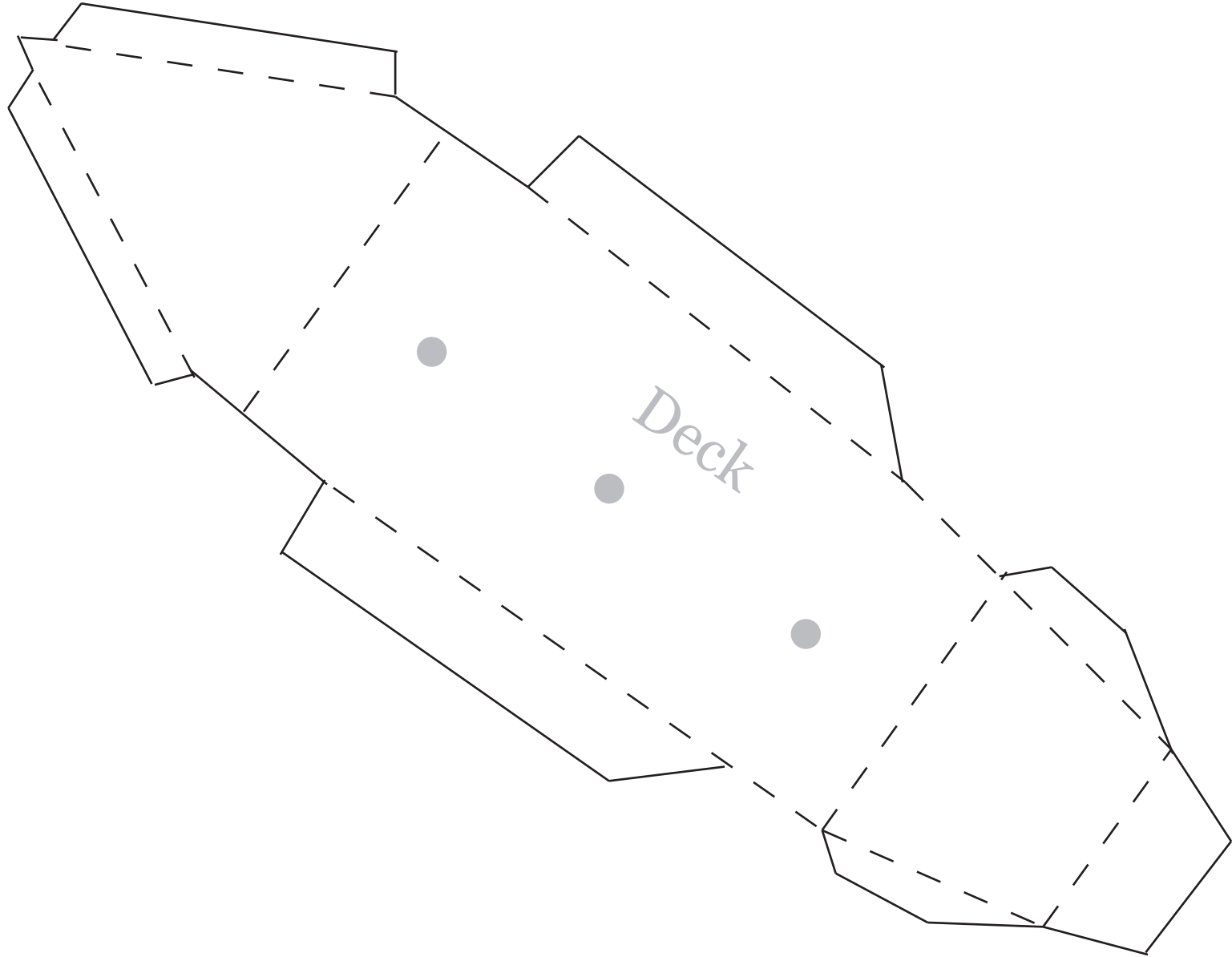
## MATERIALS

Hull, deck, and sail templates (provided)  
3 drinking straws  
Scissors  
Colored pencils or crayons  
Tape or glue  
Hole punch, thumb tack, or paper clip

# DIRECTIONS

- 1** Print out the hull, deck, and sails of your Constitution.
- 2** Cut out the hull, deck, and sails (only cut along the solid lines).
- 3** Using the photograph of Constitution as your guide, color and decorate all the elements of your ship (don't forget the gun ports on the ship's sides and Captain's cabin in the ship's stern). Look at the "Speaking in Colors" activity if you would like to add signal flags.
- 4** Use a thumbtack or paper clip to poke three holes in the deck (use the grey circles as guides). These holes will need to be large enough to fit your straws through.
- 5** Find the two sides of the hull and fold along the dotted lines. Tape (or glue) the stern of the hull together (the flat, non pointed part of your ship).
- 6** Fold along the dotted lines of the ship's deck. Tape (or glue) the deck into place along the inner edges of the ship's hull.
- 7** Tape (or glue) the bow of the ship's hull together.
- 8** Use a thumbtack or paper clip to poke two holes in each sail (one on the top, one on the bottom). Slide two sails (one of each size) onto each straw.
- 9** Place the straws in the holes on the deck of your ship.
- 10** Huzzah! You have constructed your very own USS Constitution!





Deck

