

Battleships and My Favourite Three Battleships

by Nathan Chan (primary 4, 10)

Here is a short introduction to battleships. Battleships were a form of war machinery during 20th-century warfare, especially during World War 1. They carried many guns and armament and they ruled the oceans. Many of these Battleships were known as Dreadnoughts. Dreadnoughts were a World War 1 concept, and they were basically ships with more heavy-calibre guns than previous ships. They were strong, but not fast.

I am fascinated by these battleships because of the way the cannons fire shells and how they blow up enemy targets. That is cool to me. . Also, my Dad used to like battleships just like me, and he fueled my enthusiasm for battleships by telling me stories of battles.

I have three favourite battleships, the *Yamato*, *USS Missouri* and *HMS Hood*.

Firstly, the *Yamato*. I like the *Yamato* as it looks really impressive. It was the battleship with the most guns and weapons - around 60 guns! It was also the widest and tallest battleship, making it the pride of the Japanese. It had a sister ship, the *Musashi*, and was to have a third sister ship, the *Shinano*. However, the *Shinano* was converted into an Aircraft Carrier instead and was sunk by a submarine during its maiden voyage. At that point in time, the *Yamato* and *Mushashi* were the best and largest ships. Sadly, both were sunk by

U.S. planes, which dominated World War 2 battles towards the end of the war.

In second place is USS *Missouri*. It was the third ship built for the American *Iowa* class battleship. It was stacked with anti-aircraft guns (built to destroy aircraft) and it contributed greatly in many battles, which included defending against air raids. USS *Missouri* was the fastest battleship and the longest one, letting the ship gain speed advantage when chasing enemy ships. Incidentally, USS *Missouri* was the ship on which the signing of the Japanese surrender to end World War 2 took place. It still stands and it is currently a museum.

My third favourite ship is the *HMS Hood*. It was built by the British as a battlecruiser, a type of ship that could rage across the battlefield destroying the smaller cruisers. However, it had comparable armament to the most powerful battleships and was therefore treated like a battleship. It was also a very fast ship, clocking at 32 knots. It served Britain well and was the pride of Britain for many years. During World War 2, it was involved in the famous battle to sink the German battleship, *Bismarck*. Sadly, it was instead destroyed by the *Bismarck*, who was later sunk as well by the other British ships in the battle.

I hope that there will be a museum about battleships and information about them. I would also want to have a book about every battleship that was ever constructed. In the future, I hope that famous battleships would be rebuilt, not for war, but as museums. Last but not least, I hope that people of my generation will want to know more about battleships.