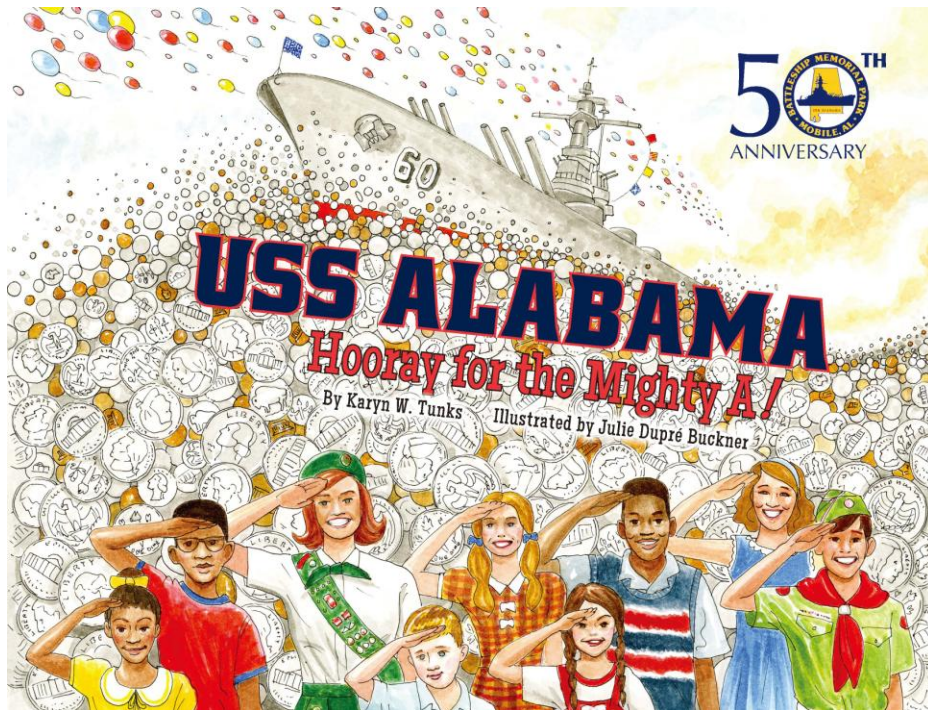


USS ALABAMA: **Hooray for the Mighty A!**

By Karyn W. Tunks
Illustrated by Julie Dupre Buckner

Teaching Guide



Author and Illustrator Information

Karyn W. Tunks, Author

Karyn Tunks is a professor of education at the University of South Alabama, where she teaches courses in early childhood education, literacy and children's literature. She is the author of several books for professional educators and two picture books. As the wife of a career Coast Guard veteran, Tunks has a deep respect for the *USS ALABAMA* Battleship Memorial Park and its mission to preserve history and honor veterans. She lives in Fairhope, Alabama with her husband and three-legged cat, Sami. Visit her website at www.karyntunks.com.

Julie Dupre' Buckner, Illustrator

Julie Buckner is an award-winning illustrator and portrait artist. Her portrait work is held in private collections throughout the United States and she has illustrated numerous children's books. A member of the Portrait Society of America and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Buckner resides in Plaquemine, Louisiana. Visit her website www.jdbuckner.com.

How to Use this Guide

This classroom guide offers lessons and activities to help teachers and library media specialists integrate *USS ALABAMA: Hooray for the Mighty A!* into English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

Lessons and activities were created in conjunction with relevant content standards from Common Core and Alabama Courses of Study.

For more lesson ideas, visit my Pinterest site, "Professor Storytime" and check out the pins on the board, "USS Alabama Related Activities."

Teachers and parents are encouraged to share their own ideas on my Facebook page at "Professor Storytime."

Guide content copyright © 2017 by Karyn W. Tunks. Available free of charge for educational use only; may not be published or sold without express written permission.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading Comprehension

Before Reading

1. Look closely at the front cover and describe what you see. (Students may notice: battleship, children saluting, coins, balloons.) Suggest that students listen for information about why these are represented on the cover.
2. Have you ever seen or visited the *USS ALABAMA*? Allow several students to briefly describe their experience. (Many Boy and Girl Scouts have slept over on the battleship.)

After Reading

3. Ask questions to help student summarize information.
 - What is happening in the first pages?
 - Describe life on the battleship when on active duty.
 - What happened to the *USS ALABAMA* at the end of WW II?
 - How did the citizens of Alabama learn that the battleship was scheduled to be scrapped? What did they decide to do?
 - How did the schoolchildren help with the effort to “Save the Battleship?”
 - What kind of welcome did the battleship receive when she arrived in Mobile?
4. Ask students to explain how the items they observed on the book’s cover were significant enough to be included in the illustration.

Vocabulary

Complete the crossword puzzle of glossary terms. (See Appendix A.)

Answer Key

Across	Down
2. captain	1. underway
4. berthed	2. course
5. galley	3. deck
7. crew	4. bow
8. stern	6. locks

Writing

1. Choose from one of the prompts below:
 - The sailors sent and received letters on the battleship. Write a letter as if you are the sailor on the ship. What would you tell your parents, siblings, or friends about the daily life on the ship?
 - If you were a schoolchild asked to give up your allowance to help save the battleship, would you do it? Why or why not? What other ways might you have helped raise money?

2. Write a Persuasive Essay

- Discuss what it means to persuade. (Persuade is trying to convince someone to agree with you.)
- Ask students for examples of a time when they have tried to persuade someone to do something (stay up late, buy a video game, get out of doing a chore).
- Assign a persuasive essay based on the TREE structure. (Students may work individually, in pairs or groups, or the class may construct the essay together.)

Prompt: Is there a cause that is important enough to you, your school, or your community that you would donate money to support it? Talk to people in your class at school and your family about worthy causes. Write about a cause that you would support and write an essay to persuade others to join you. Variations: Write a letter to someone or develop a script for a television commercial.

T= Topic Sentence	The topic sentence tells the reader what you think or believe.
R= Reasons	Reasons tell the reader why you believe the cause is important. List 2-3 reasons and give 2-4 supporting sentences for each reason.
E= Ending	Wrap it up with a concluding statement or two.
E= Examine	Reread and check that all parts are included and spelling and punctuation are correct.

MATHEMATICS

1. Fact Finding by the Numbers! Use the book to answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the date of the final battle of the *USS ALABAMA*?
 - b. How many years was the *USS ALABAMA* on active duty?
 - c. How many sailors lived on the battleship?
 - d. How many gallons of coffee and how many loaves of bread were made each day?
 - e. What year was the *USS ALABAMA* taken out of service?
 - f. How much money did the schoolchildren contribute?
 - g. How inches were between the battleship and the locks on each side?
 - h. How many months did it take to move the battleship from Washington State Navy Yard to Mobile Bay?
 - i. What day did the battleship arrive in Alabama?
 - j. What day did the Battleship Memorial Park open to visitors?
 - k. How many visitors have toured the *USS ALABAMA*?
 - l. How long is the *USS ALABAMA*?

2. The *USS Alabama* is 608' long from bow to stern. Use division to find out how many of the items listed in the chart it would take to fit the entire deck of the battleship. If the answer is not a whole number, round down. Use the chart below.

ITEM	608 feet	÷ Length of item in feet	= How many of the item needed to reach from bow to stern	Round <i>down</i> to whole number
school bus	608	÷ 35' (length of school bus)	= 17.37	17 school busses
Hump back whale	608			
Blue whale	608			
(student's choice)	608			
(student's choice)	608			

Answer Key

Humpback whale	608	÷ 48'	= 12.6	12 Humpback whales
Blue whale	608	÷98'	= 6.2	6 Blue whales

3. Teach coordinates and mapping skills by introducing students to the game *Battleship*. Free printable game sheets and a link to directions for playing the game can be found at the blog, "Just Something I Made" and this link: <http://justsomethingimade.com/2010/12/free-printable-vintage-battleship-game/>

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Use a map of Alabama to answer the following questions:
 - a. On what body of water is the *USS Alabama* located?
 - b. The *USS Alabama* is located just off what interstate highway?
 - c. The *USS Alabama* rests between which two Alabama counties?
 - d. If you were traveling from Daphne, which direction would you travel to reach the *USS Alabama*?
 - e. Why was Mobile an excellent choice for the location of the *Alabama*?

Answer Key:

- a. Mobile Bay
- b. I-10
- c. Mobile and Baldwin Counties
- d. East
- e. Mobile Bay allowed direct access from the Gulf of Mexico and provided a body of water next to land for the battleship to be berthed.

2. Use a map of North America and Central America to trace the final voyage of the *USS Alabama* from the Washington State Ship Yard, through the Panama Canal, to Mobile Bay. Show this video on a brief history and demonstration of the Panama Canal locks system.

<http://www.history.com/topics/panama-canal/videos/panama-canal-locks>

3. Read aloud the newspaper article published in the Mobile Press Register from September 14, 1964 (see Appendix B) and discuss the higher order thinking questions below:

- a. When did the battleship arrive at the mouth of the Mobile Bay?
- b. What in the article indicates this is a significant event in the lives of Mobile and Alabama citizens?
- c. Why were officials thankful for the public understanding about the arrival of the battleship?
- d. Where was the site of the memorial (called “shrine” in the article) to be?
- e. How was it going to be held in place once it arrived at the site?

Answer Key

- a. 9:00 p.m. on a Sunday
- b. The governor was trying to arrange his schedule. New reporters and photographers from across the country were there.
- c. Officials could not predict the exact time of arrival.
- d. South of the Causeway.
- e. Sand would be pumped around it to hold it.

4. Find the following features on the schematic drawings in the back of the book.

- Crew’s washroom
- Barber shop
- Powder handling room
- Officer’s washroom
- Fire control station
- Pilot house
- Admiral’s cabin
- Ammo handling area
- Jail
- Mess Room
- Laundry
- Airplane Crane

5. Think about the roles of author and illustrator and answer these questions:

- a. Who is the author? What do you think motivated her to write the book?
- b. Who is the illustrator? How did her experience as an artist help her illustrate the book?
- c. What kind of work do you think each person did in order to tell this story with words and illustrations?

SCIENCE

1. Sink and Float

Students wonder how a ship so large and heavy doesn't sink. The explanation is:

An object will float if the gravitational (downward) force is less than the buoyancy (upward) force. So, in other words, an object will float if it weighs less than the amount of water it displaces. This explains why a rock will sink while a huge boat will float. The rock is heavy, but it displaces only a little water.

This Youtube video offers a visual demonstration:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xniW3_afO-0

Here is a link to a complete lesson plan for a sink and float activity.

<http://sciencenetlinks.com/lessons/sink-or-float/>

2. Origami Boat

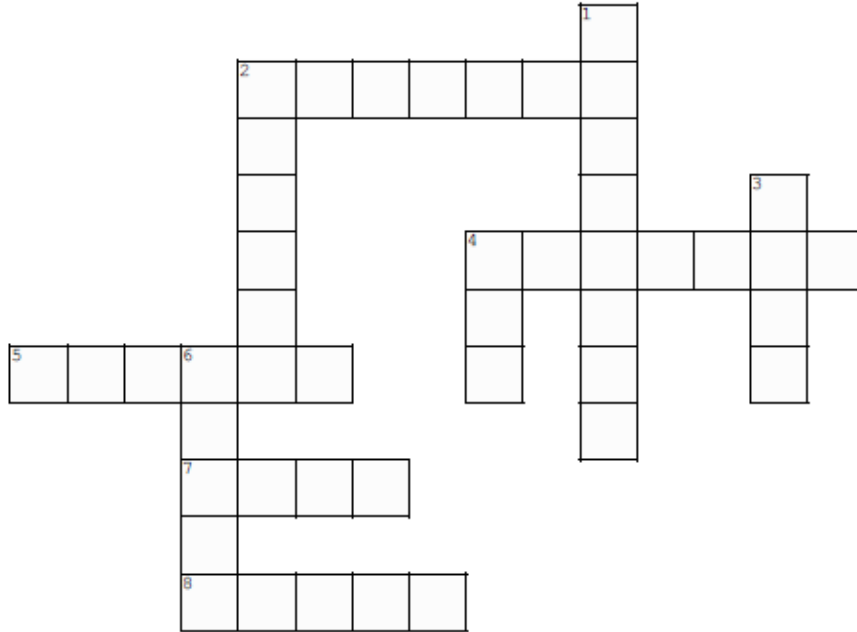
Students can fold a boat from paper and test to see if it floats. Here is a link to one design: <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Boat>

Appendix A: English Language Arts-Vocabulary
Use the Glossary in the back of the book to complete the puzzle.

Name: _____

USS ALABAMA: Hooray for the Mighty A!

Complete the crossword below.



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Puzzle Generator

underway stern bow berthed galley captain course locks deck crew

Across

- 2.** Person in command of a ship.
- 4.** Having brought a ship to a space where it can dock or anchor.
- 5.** Kitchen of the ship.
- 7.** Team of people who work closely together to operate a ship.
- 8.** The back of the ship.

Down

- 1.** Vessel in motion.
- 2.** Direction in which a ship is steered.
- 3.** Floor-like surface covering the hull, or main body, of a ship.
- 4.** Forward part of ship.
- 6.** Short, confined sections of a waterway in which the water level can be changed to raise or lower ships.

Appendix B: Social Studies #3

“Battleship Arrives in City Today” Expected AT Pinto Island Around 10 A.M

(September 14, 1964)

Reading was excerpted from the Mobile Press Register September 14, 1964

The *USS Alabama* arrived at the mouth of the Mobile Bay about 9 P.M. Sunday and waited for slack water to make its crossing of the Mobile bar into the bay.

Alabama Battle ship Commission officials said late Sunday, “We are overjoyed that it has finally arrived.” They added Governor George Wallace was attempting to arrange his schedule so he could greet the ship here.

They said the ship was expected to cross the bar between midnight and 2 A.M., then move slowly up the channel to an anchorage on the east side of Pinto Island about a mile into the new channel being dredged to its permanent berth.

She is expected at Pinto Island around 10 A.M. today.

A group of local, state, and national newsmen and photographers will leave the State Docks at 8 A.M. to meet the ship as it moves up the channel. Also on hand will be Frank Samford, state campaign chairman.

Officials said an effort would be made to stall the arrival of the ship at the point it turns into its newly dredged channel until at least 10 A.M.

“We appreciate the patience and understanding of the public in dealing with the delays and uncertainties that have made it impossible to predict the exact time of arrival,” officials said.

They also appealed for a final funds campaign to “finish the job” of financing the state shrine to Alabama’s war heroes.

Stephens G. Croom, secretary and Henri Aldridge, chairman of the commission (*USS Alabama* reported the drive to get \$1 million for the shrine is \$287, 000 short at present.

The new channel to the shrine site is not expected to be completed until Wednesday. The battle ship will remain in the channel about a week before moving to the shrine site just south of the Causeway. Sand will then be pumped around the battlewagon to hold it.

Aldridge said improving weather conditions allowed the ship, which is being towed by two tugs, to make up some of the previous lost time.

Aldridge said that pilots were planning to tow the ship across the bay between midnight and 2 A.M. Monday-the hour when tidal cross flow is expected to be least troublesome.