

### A. Fulton's Torpedo, interpreting a political cartoon

American Robert Fulton invented a device (consisting of a mass of gunpowder) designed to be exploded under or against the side of a ship. He named his device after a fish that emits an electric ray, called a torpedo fish.

Cartoonists express their ideas by using captions, labels, symbols and humorous exaggeration.

Read the cartoon and answer the questions below.



1. What was the cartoonist's viewpoint? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How did the cartoonist employ the tools of the cartoonist trade to convey this viewpoint?

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3. How was the torpedo similar to *Constitution*? \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Credit: research the story of the battle between *HMS Shannon* and *USS Chesapeake* and report to the class.

Extra Credit: draw a political cartoon that conveys another viewpoint on the new invention.