

## PIONEER-CLASS

**Entered Service: 2238.** *Pioneer*-class starships were retired from service after 2275.

**Overview:** The first of what would become the *Pioneer*-class was built out of the hull of an unfinished *Einstein*-class vessel and used to test the warp engine planned for the *Constitution*-class. Both the reactor and the "*Pioneer*" acquitted themselves well, so the ship was finished and continued to serve Starfleet, performing odd tasks: investigated previously discovered stellar phenomena, delivering medical supplies, transporting colonists, and performing diplomatic functions for Federation members. While *Constitution*-class vessels were notably larger and out-performed *Pioneer*-class ships in nearly every metric, they also consumed significantly more resources to construct. Starfleet estimated that by the mid-2260s they would be lucky to have ten *Constitution*-class starships: less than one per sector of the Federation. It was decided that the *U.S.S. Pioneer* would serve as the basis for a utility starship, one designed for operating inside the Federation rather than at the borders of known space. This proved oddly prescient, as following the devastating losses of the Federation-Klingon War of 2256, Starfleet needed ships that could be rapidly and efficiently constructed. Whenever a *Constitution*-class vessel was too far away or too busy for a mission, a *Pioneer*-class was sent instead. The *Pioneer*-class was often assigned to accompany larger vessels, but the frigate's size and crew complement limited the duration of such missions. Initially, some captains were dismissive of *Pioneers*, calling them the "*Frankenstein*-class" due to their hodgepodge origin, or being critical of their crew, who often failed to qualify for positions on *Constitution* vessels. However, during the lifespan of the class, *Pioneers* developed a reputation for efficiency and reliability, becoming the workhorses of Starfleet. Many new captains received their first command on *Pioneer* vessels, and retained a strong nostalgia for the vessels even after they ascended to the admiralty. When Starfleet decided to retire the *Pioneers* rather than refit them like the *Constitutions*, there was surprising push-back.

**Capabilities:** The *Pioneer*-class bears a passing resemblance to *Einstein*-class vessels, save it has two warp nacelle extending from a cylindrical substructure jutting from the aft of the saucer section. While the single engine was sufficient for warp 5 speeds and could theoretically have functions for warp 7, after several *Einstein*-class ships were lost following damage to a nacelle, it was decided the redundancy of a second nacelle was desirable. The secondary hull was located beneath the saucer section, housing main engineering, twin navigational deflectors, and the sensor controls. A cylindrical subsection running between the bridge connects to the nacelle pylons and ends with the ship's small shuttlebay. While the ship was capable of reaching warp 7, it was not designed to maintain those speeds for long, and typically traveled at a cruising speed of warp 4. It retained the larger reactor of the *Constitution*-class, and had surprising power output for a ship of its size. The class was only superficially armed and had only three phaser banks. Initially the class lacked torpedoes, but two torpedo launchers were added to the design shortly into its lifespan.

### SYSTEMS

COMMS 08

ENGINES 07

STRUCTURE 08

COMPUTERS 07

SENSORS 08

WEAPONS 07

### DEPARTMENTS

COMMAND -

SECURITY -

SCIENCE +1

CONN -

ENGINEERING +1

MEDICINE +1

SCALE: 3

#### TALENTS

*Pioneer*-class starships have the following Talents:

#### WEAPONRY:

■ Phaser Banks

■ Photon Torpedoes

■ Tractor Beam (Strength 2)

■ Improved Hull Integrity

■ Improved Power Systems

