

Jobs in the U.S. Navy

GRADES 3-8



Overview

This activity is geared toward participants in grades 3-8. The estimated amount of time to deliver this lesson is 45 minutes.

In this lesson, participants will make connections between roles aboard U.S. Navy ships and their own lives.

Participants will discover that ships often functioned like cities at sea, where crew members had duties that contributed to the overall workings of the ship and carried out their mission. Participants will look through different departments in the Navy and discuss jobs related to each department. They will then determine how these duties fit into a larger department structure aboard a Navy ship.

The program will culminate with participants finding objects or spaces connected to these different jobs or identifying the differences between a Navy version of a job and a similar job as a civilian.



Objective

Participants will be able to identify several roles and jobs found aboard a U.S. Navy ship and understand how they contribute to the overall function of the ship.



Materials

- Department Descriptions
- Job Description Statements -- Paper Strips
- Cruise books or ship newspaper clippings showing jobs
- Chart Paper
- Markers
- Tape
- Navy Job Questionnaire
- Navy Job Scavenger Hunt Worksheet

Optional:

- Relevant objects in touch collection
- “Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship”



Set Up

Print Job Description Statements one-sided; cut along dotted lines into paper strips.



Inquiry

Have participants consider the places and jobs that exist in their community. Working together, in small groups or individually, write out the responses on chart paper.

- Create two columns: one column for places in the community and another for the people who work in those places.
- Ask participants to put a check mark next to the places and jobs that might exist on a Navy vessel, like an aircraft carrier, and cross out the places/jobs that they don't think would exist.

Suggested questions for grades 3-5:

- Why would these be important jobs aboard a ship? Why would other jobs not be needed aboard a ship?
- What are jobs that aren't on this list that would be important on a ship?

Suggested questions for grades 6-8:

- If you were a crew member aboard a ship sailing around the world and were not able to return to land for several months, what facilities or jobs would you want to have while on board?
- What challenges would sailors have serving these positions on a ship rather than on land?

Explain that the Navy would have had most (if not all) of the jobs/places the participants listed. The Navy would provide anything its personnel need or desire in their day-to-day lives.



Investigation

Share "Navy Department Descriptions" and images of people carrying out different jobs on a Navy ship. Supplement with ship newspapers and cruise books in the touch collection to show people working in these jobs.

- Why is each department crucial to the operation of a ship?
- How might these different departments depend on each other?

Post chart paper on the wall, each listing a different department that operates on a Navy vessel. Share the simpler description for each department:

- Air Department (Flight, aircraft, aviation, pilots, etc.)
- Communications Department (Messages, talking, information, etc.)

- Engineering Department (Engines, propulsion, basic needs of the ship)
- Dental and Medical Departments (Doctors, hygiene, cleanliness)
- Deck Divisions (Floors aboard an aircraft carrier, maintaining ship structure, etc.)
- Weapons Department (Guns, ammunition, etc.)
- Operations Department (Carrying out missions -- Photographic intelligence, CIC, carrier air traffic control, weather analysis, etc.)
- Supply Department (Food service, spare parts, disbursement of pay, laundry, etc.)
- Administration (Post office, legal, personnel, support to the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer XO)
- Navigation Department (Direction, position, movement)

Hand out paper strips each with an individual statement about departments from the Job Description Statements document. Working together, in small groups or individually, read the statements and determine what department the responsibility would be categorized under. Have participants tape the paper strip statement on the corresponding chart paper.



Activity

Scavenger Hunt

Have participants take part in a scavenger hunt in which they have to find objects or spaces related to the job they were handed.

Navy of the Future (Suggested for grades 3-5):

- How have jobs in the Navy changed over time? What jobs have been added and what jobs have been eliminated?
- Imagine what the Navy will look like in 50 years. Draw or share jobs we might see as technological advances. What about in 100 years? 500 years?

Access to Navy Jobs (Suggested for grades 6-8):

Who had access to these different jobs has changed over time. Not all jobs in the Navy were open to everyone throughout the Navy's service.

Break participants into groups and have each group look at a separate time period in "Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship." Have each group identify what jobs became open to certain groups of people within that time period.



Lesson Connection

Explore how Navy policy over time determined what type of job a servicemember had access to in our lesson: **What is a Steward?**



Background

Administrative Department

The Administrative Department was responsible for maintaining all administrative data and paperwork necessary for the ship to function properly. These functions included data processing, as well as recreational, police and postal services. This department was also responsible for operation of the ship's Public Affairs Office as well as the onboard television and radio stations.

Operations Department

The Operations Department was responsible for planning and coordinating the operations of the ship and the aircraft. Heading this very important department is the ship's Operations Officer, or "Ops." This individual was one of the busiest men on the ship. Intelligence, photographic intelligence, local air traffic control and weather forecasting were types of services provided by this department. The ship's intelligence officer and the CIC spaces were part of this department on an aircraft carrier.

Supply Department

The Supply Department was responsible for feeding and paying the ship's crew, including the running of the ship's wardroom(s) and mess spaces. This department was responsible for the laundry and dry cleaning services, stores, barbershops and recreation services. This department also stocked spare parts for underway ship and/or aircraft repairs.

Job statements associated with the Administrative Department, Operations Department and Supply Department for students to categorize:

- Members of my department are responsible for the laundry and dry cleaning services, stores, barbershops and recreation services.
- Members of my department are responsible for feeding and paying the ship's crew, including the running of the ship's wardroom(s) and mess spaces.
- Members of my department are responsible for maintaining all administrative data and paperwork necessary for the ship to function properly.
- Members of my department are responsible for data processing, as well as recreational, police and postal services.
- Members of my department are responsible for operating the ship's public affairs office as well as the onboard television and radio stations.
- Members of my department are responsible for intelligence, photographic intelligence, local air traffic control and weather forecasting.

Air Department

The Air Department gave direct support to the embarked air wing. The Air Department was in charge of launching and landing aircraft, as well as fueling, moving and maintaining aircraft. It was also responsible for the routine handling of aircraft on the flight deck and in the hangar bays.

Job statements associated with the Air Department for students to categorize:

- Members of my department are responsible for the routine handling of aircraft of the flight deck and in the hangar bays.
- Members of my department are responsible for supporting the pilots and all things having to do with flight operations.
- Members of my department are responsible for launching and landing aircraft, fueling, moving and maintaining aircraft.

Communications Department

The Communications Department sent and received messages to and from other ships, aircraft, and shore facilities by way of various electronic equipment, as well with as visual methods like signal flags and lights.

Job statements associated with the Communications Department for students to categorize:

- Members of my department are responsible for sending and receiving messages to and from other ships, aircraft and shore facilities.
- Members of my department are responsible for using electronic equipment as well as visual methods like signal flags and lights to communicate.

Engineering Department

The Engineering Department maintained the ship's power plants, which provided steam for propulsion and aircraft catapults. It also operated and maintained all life support systems, including fresh water, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, hot water, electrical power, telephone service and sewage.

Job statements associated with the Engineering Department for students to categorize:

Members of my department are responsible for operating and maintaining all life support systems, including fresh water, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, hot water, electrical power, telephone service and sewage.

Dental Department

The Dental Department provided dental care, encompassing simple care, such as dental check-ups, through emergency dental care for all crew members. Only large ships, such as aircraft carriers and amphibious warfare ships, had Dental Departments.

Medical Department

The Medical Department was responsible for maintaining the health of the crew, the treatment of sick and injured ship's personnel, disease prevention and the promotion of good health ship-wide. Additionally, the Medical Officer also advised the ship's Commanding Officer on the ship's hygiene and sanitation conditions.

Job statements associated with the Dental and Medical Departments for students to categorize:

- Members of my department are responsible for providing dental care to crew members, both routine and emergency care.
- Members of my department are responsible for maintaining the health of the crew, and the treatment of sick and injured ship's personnel.
- Members of my department advise the ship's Commanding Officer on the ship's hygiene and sanitation conditions.
- Members of my department are responsible for disease prevention and the promotion of good health ship-wide.

Deck Divisions

The Deck Divisions were responsible for maintaining the anchor, mooring the ship and maintaining the exterior of the ship. They also maintained the rescue and assistance lifeboats. On *Intrepid*, the ship's deck divisions were part of the Weapons department.

Job statements associated with the Deck Divisions for students to categorize:

- Members of my division are responsible for maintaining the anchor, mooring the ship, and maintaining the exterior of the ship.
- Members of my division are responsible for maintaining the rescue and assistance lifeboats.

Weapons Department

The Weapons Department maintained and operated the ship's weapons systems. Men who worked in the Weapons Department also assembled, tested, and maintained bombs, missiles, torpedoes and small weapons ammunition. On *Intrepid*, the ship's deck divisions were also part of this department.

Job statements associated with the Weapons Department for students to categorize:

- Members of my department are responsible for assembling, testing and maintaining bombs, missiles, torpedoes and small weapons ammunition.
- Members of my department are responsible for maintaining and operating the ship's weapon's systems.

Navigation Department

The Navigation Department was responsible for knowing at all times the position of the ship, the direction of travel and the safest sea lanes to traverse. Computations were made using celestial navigation, electronic machinery and visual reports. The Navigation Department was also responsible for executing all military traditions, customs and honors onboard the ship.

Job statements associated with the Navigation Department for students to categorize:

- Members of my department are responsible for knowing at all times the position of the ship, the direction of travel and the safest sea lands to traverse.
- Members of my department are responsible for making computations using celestial navigation, electronic machinery and visual reports.



Additional Resources/References

Origins of the Navy:

<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/heritage/origins-of-the-navy.html>



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

Full Muster: Inclusive Histories on Historic Naval Ships has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this resource do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Documents and Images

Navy Department Descriptions

The departments responsible for maintaining a **SHIP** include:

Engineering Department

- Ship's electrical power and phone service
- Propulsion and catapults
- Fresh water, heat, air conditioning and sewage

Navigation Department

- Navigation and safest route of the ship
- Directionality computed via celestial navigation, visual information and electronic data
- Carries out all military traditions, customs and honors

Deck Department

- Maintenance of anchor and lifeboats
- Mooring of ship
- Rescue missions

Operations Department

- Intelligence and photograph intelligence
- Local air traffic control
- Weather forecasting

Safety Department (on Aircraft Carriers)

- Provides ongoing training on potential hazards and accident prevention

Training Department

- Coordinates enlisted advancement exams, reenlistments and specialized training

Weapons Department

- Operates weapons systems
- Assembles, tests, and maintains bombs, missiles, torpedos and ammunition

The departments responsible for maintaining **AIR OPERATIONS** include:

The Air Department

- In charge of launching and landing aircraft
- Responsible for fueling, moving and maintenance of aircraft
- Routine handling of aircraft on flight deck & hangar bay

Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department

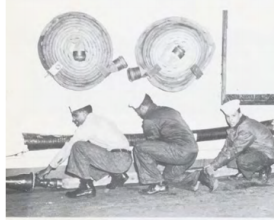
- Industrial-level maintenance for air wing and a ship's ground support equipment



Navigation



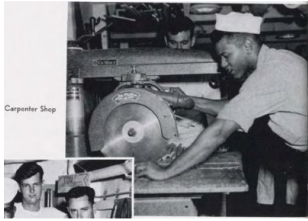
Weather Forecasting



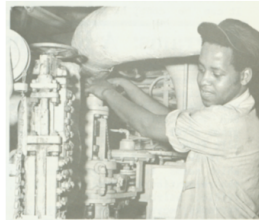
Ship Safety



Photograph Intelligence



Engineering and Repair



Credit: Collection of the Intrepid Museum. 1971, 1956, 1955, USS *Intrepid* cruise book. Gift of printed material and photo, produced in Intrepid Print Shop – Donated by Richard Maxwell LI-3, USS *Intrepid* 1958-60. A2013.168. Gift of PH-1 Gofrido Garcia USNR (Ret). P2021.11



Fueling & Maintaining Aircraft



Credit: Collection of the Intrepid Museum

The departments responsible for supporting a **COMMUNITY** of people include:

Administrative Department

- Maintains data and paperwork including personnel records
- Recreational, police and postal services
- Responsible for ship newspaper and onboard television and radio stations

Communications Department

- Sends and receives messages to and from ships, aircraft and shore facilities, using electronic equipment, signal flags and lights

Chaplain Department

- Leads religious services, provides counseling and directly operates a ship's library
- Coordinates personal emergency communications from American Red Cross

Dental Department

- Dental check-ups for all crew members
- Administers emergency dental care

Medical Department

- Maintains health of all crew; treats sick and injured personnel
- Disease prevention
- Medical Officer advised ship's Commanding Officer on hygiene and sanitation conditions

Supply Department

- Responsible for feeding and paying ship's crew
- Runs ship's wardroom and maintaining mess spaces
- Responsible for laundry and dry cleaning, stores, barbershop and recreation services



Bakers and Cooks



Mailroom



Barber



Ship Newspaper



Communications

Credit: Collection of the Intrepid Museum

Job Description Statements

Members of my division are responsible for maintaining the rescue and assistance lifeboats.

Members of my department are responsible for maintaining all administrative data and paperwork necessary for the ship to function properly.

Members of my department are responsible for data processing, as well as recreational, police and postal services.

Members of my department are responsible for operating the ship's Public Affairs Office as well as the onboard television and radio stations.

Members of my department are responsible for feeding and paying the ship's crew, including the running of the ship's wardroom(s) and mess spaces.

The chief officer in my department advises the ship's Commanding Officer on the ship's hygiene and sanitation conditions.

Members of my department are responsible for maintaining and operating the ship's weapons systems.

Members of my department are responsible for assembling, testing, and maintaining bombs, missiles, torpedoes and small weapons ammunition.

Members of my department are responsible for disease prevention and the promotion of good health ship-wide.

Members of my division are responsible for maintaining the anchor, mooring the ship and maintaining the exterior of the ship.

Members of my department are responsible for intelligence, photographic intelligence, local air traffic control and weather forecasting.

Members of my department are responsible for supporting the pilots and all things having to do with flight operations.

Members of my department are responsible for maintaining the health of the crew and the treatment of sick and injured ship's personnel.

Members of my department are responsible for providing dental care to crew members, both routine and emergency care.

Members of my department are responsible for operating and maintaining all life support systems, including fresh water, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, hot water, electrical power, telephone service and sewage.

Members of my department are responsible for launching and landing aircraft, fueling, moving and maintaining aircraft.

Members of my department are responsible for the routine handling of aircraft on the flight deck and in the hangar bays.

Members of my department are responsible for using electronic equipment as well as visual methods like signal flags and lights to communicate.

Members of my department are responsible for the laundry and dry cleaning services, stores, barbershops and recreation services.

Members of my department are responsible for sending and receiving messages to and from other ships, aircraft and shore facilities.

ACTIVITY 1: Navy Job Questionnaire

Directions: What would be the best job for you on a Navy vessel? Put your score in the colored box. Tally your score at the end to find out which job you might enjoy on a Navy vessel!

Score the questions: 0=don't like at all, 1=like a little, 2=like a lot, 3=love it.

#	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Do you like assembling kits or building with Legos?							
2	Do you like learning about biology?							
3	Do you like planning parties?							
4	Do you like doing favors for people?							
5	Do you like teaching people new things?							
6	Do you like to read and write?							
7	Do you like reading signs on long car trips?							

#	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Do you like to take things apart and put them together?							
9	Do you like TV shows about doctors and nurses?							
10	Do you like multitasking and being organized?							
11	Do you like making art or music?							
12	Do you like to be in charge of things?							
13	Do you like helping people use new technology?							
14	Do you like learning about the ocean?							

#	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	Do you like fixing broken things?							
16	Do you like helping sick or hurt people get better?							
17	Do you like to cook?							
18	Do you like making people smile?							
19	Do you like being the team captain in sports?							
20	Do you like texting or passing notes to friends?							
21	Do you like looking at the stars at night?							

What would be the best job for you on a Navy vessel?

Add your total score for each color on the column in the left. The highest score is the best job for you!

	Engineering Department: You make the ship move and provide it with electricity. You might work with the boilers and turbines in the engine room, or you might roam the ship to fix problems with wiring, steam pipes, lights or electric motors.
	Medical Department: Your job is to keep the rest of the crew healthy. Doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and X-ray technicians all work on a battleship. In battle, you'll help sailors who get hurt. You will also help sailors from the smaller ships that sail with the battleship.
	Food Service Department: Everybody needs to eat, and providing three meals a day for hundreds or thousands of hungry sailors and Marines is your job. The food has to be healthy, it has to be hot, and it has to taste good. You play a very big role in keeping the crew happy and healthy.
	Ship's Services: There are lots of little jobs that need to be done to keep the sailors happy and ready to fight. Ship's Services might mean you're a barber, a tailor, the editor of the ship's newspaper or the ship's photographer. There's plenty to do, and it's all important.
	Command: This means you're an officer and a leader. As a young ensign, you'll be in charge of one big gun turret, one engine room, or some other group of sailors who work together. As you get older, you'll be in charge of more and more, until you get to be the captain of the ship!
	Communications: You'll be working with radios, secret codes, and everything else that helps the ship send messages and receive them. That also includes signal flags, sending Morse code messages by searchlight and making sure the Captain can give orders to the engine room.
	Navigation: You're in charge of knowing where the ship is, where it needs to go, and the best way to get there. If the ship runs aground or hits a rock, it's your fault; don't let that happen. If the ship needs to shoot at an island, it's your job to find the island.

ACTIVITY 2: JOB SCAVENGER HUNT

Directions: Explore a U.S. Navy vessel using this worksheet and find objects connected to different jobs and departments that existed during the time of that vessel's service.

Object or Space	What job does it connect to? How?

How might these objects and spaces differ from what is used on Navy vessels today?