

# Investigating Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship

GRADES 6-12



## Overview

This activity is geared toward participants in grades 6-12. The estimated amount of time to deliver this lesson is 60 minutes.

Who we see serving in different positions of the Navy has changed considerably over time. Throughout the century, many individuals and groups advocated for a more equitable Navy, some from outside and some from within the service.

In this lesson, participants will look through various time periods and determine who was impacted and discuss the time period in which they saw the most change.



## Objective

Participants will be able to identify how policies taking place in various points in time impacted the opportunities available to people from certain groups.



## Materials

- Sections of "Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship" (The Navy before WWII, World War II, Cold War Advancements, and The Fight Continues)
- Copies of Activity 1: Examining Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship



## Inquiry

Ask participants:

- What movements or events in history have had the most impact on your family?

Let participants know that they will be discussing different policies that impacted many groups over the course of the Navy's history, focusing on different periods of time between 1875 and 2021.



## Investigation

Separate participants into groups of four or five students. Have each group investigate one section of the “Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship” (The Navy before WWII, World War II, Cold War Advancements and The Fight Continues). Have each group answer the following questions:

- Which groups were the most impacted by the policies listed during this period of time?
- Who can now serve that previously could not before?
- What jobs became open to certain groups of people within that time period?



## Activity

### Moments and Events Impacting These Policies

Have the members in each group research major movements and historical events that took place in the same time period as their section of the timeline, but are not listed. Participants can record those events on their worksheet or a piece of chart paper. Encourage participants to look at events that might be impacting the countries or groups mentioned in their section of the timeline.

- What other events are taking place during this period of time?
- How could they impact the policies we see listed?

Have each group present the answers to the questions to the whole group.

- In which section of the timeline did we see the most change?
- What might have led to that change?

## Individuals Impacted by These Policies

Have participants visit <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity.html> and research historical or military figures impacted by the policies listed on the timeline.

- What policies might have impacted their service?
- What legacy do they leave behind?



## Lesson Connection

To have participants work on a research project on the content related to these policies, see our lesson: **Culminating Project**.



## Additional Resources/References

For access to primary source documents:

<http://docsteach.org/>

<https://www.fold3.com/>

<http://dp.la/>



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## **ACTIVITY: Examining Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship**

### Directions:

Investigate one section of the “Timeline of U.S. Federal and U.S. Navy Policy Impacting Service and Citizenship” (The Navy before WWII, World War II, Cold War Advancements and The Fight Continues). Answer the following questions:

### **Section of Timeline:**

**Which groups were the most impacted by the policies listed during this period of time?  
Which policies impacted them the most?**

**Who can now serve that previously could not before?**

**What jobs became open to certain groups of people within that time period?**

**Research other events taking place during this period of time that are not mentioned on the timeline. How could they impact the policies we see listed?**