

SAVVAS



Safety on the Waters

Coast Guard

Hook & Inspire! Connections to Today

Ignite students' interest by sharing these resources, which demonstrate connections between the past and present. Please be sure to preview all resources.

Coast Guard

Throughout the year, tourists, commercial fisherman, and a plethora of other groups of people head to the beach waters across the United States. The activities within these waters, although necessary and entertaining at other times can be treacherous. During times where the weather or nature may not cooperate, it is important to have a group of people and supplies to help those in distress. This group of individuals, developed in 1790, is the United States Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard focuses services on individuals within our waters off the coasts of the United States. The group first set out to make sure that smugglers were not getting items into the United States illegally. The Coast Guard services continued to grow through the years. Franklin Roosevelt, during his presidency, gave control of any lighthouse services to the Coast Guard as well. The branch continues to change and grow in its capacity. It is now an area of Homeland Security.

Currently, the Coast Guard works to help and protect citizens and enforce laws over the ocean parameters. The group will work to meet the needs of individuals, even those trying to enter the United States illegally. The Coast Guard expanded from a small fleet of ships to over 200 ships. There are many miles of ocean and waterways that are governed by the United States. The Coast Guard is in charge of a large area and continues to expand in its efforts. Many days comprise live rescues of individuals, drug confiscation, terroristic threat removal, and property management.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1). What was the original goal or task for the Coast Guard? Why do you think the government ended up adding additional duties?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. We originally founded the Coast Guard to ensure that people traveling by water to the United States did not smuggle contraband items. As the United States grew, the government felt the need to expand duties. They added giving help to those in distress on the waters, helping illegal immigrants in distress and blocking their entry into the United States, and monitoring lighthouses.

2). The Coast Guard is housed under the Department for Homeland Security. Why is this a good fit for the Coast Guard?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. The Coast Guard works to help and protect individuals. They have blocked terrorist attacks by water and rescue individuals daily. They confiscate many forms of drugs and illegal weapons. This makes them a good fit for the Department of Homeland Security. It would keep them under the same umbrella concerning the United States security.

3). The Coast Guard has an academy that all individuals must go through prior to receiving a position in the Guard. What is the mascot for the academy?

This website has the answers to this question. [Coast Guard Academy History](#)

The mascot is a black bear, named "Objee." They selected the black bear as the mascot because black bears are bold. They don't shy away from things easily. The Coast Guard actually had a real live bear on campus that would even shower with cadets.

4). How is working for the Coast Guard the same or different from working as a police officer or military personnel?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. The Coast Guard deals with issues on the water. Police officers may have issues happen on the water, but most of their work is on land. Military personnel will work with the Coast Guard during times of war. All branches of the military and police make difficult decisions daily.

5). The Coast Guard often serves during times of severe weather. How important is it for a Coast Guard member to work in stressful situations? Would they need to swim? Would they need to be in shape?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. Coast Guard members often rescue individuals during severe weather. The ability to swim is a must for members of the Coast Guard. It is also important for a member to multitask and make quick decisions. It is necessary for a Coast Guard member to be in shape and in good health.

Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

Videos

- 1). [United States Coast Guard - 1790 to Today - A Short History](#); This video summarizes the history of the Coast Guard.
- 2). [US Coast Guard vs Navy - What's the ACTUAL Difference?](#); This video compares the Coast Guard with the military.
- 3). [Station Safewater](#); This series of videos teaches kids about boat safety.
- 4). [Coast Guard Helicopter Water Rescue Training](#); This video allows you to see a water rescue by the Coast Guard.
- 5). [US Coast Guard Ranks in order](#); This video shows the rankings within the Coast Guard.

Media

- 1). [SAFE Boats Lands USCG Order For Another 20 OTH-IV Boats](#); This article discusses the order of new boats by the Coast Guard.
- 2). [Cutter Boats](#); This article discusses the use of cutter boats by the Coast Guard.
- 3). [Learn about commitments](#); This article discusses the Coast Guard and how it affects the worker's family.
- 4). [US Coast Guard Rescue Operations Experiment at the Vertical Motion Simulator](#); This article discusses the use of simulations in training Coast Guard members.
- 5). [The Cutters, Boats, and Aircraft of the U.S. Coast Guard](#); This website gives detailed information, including pictures, of the various tools used by the Coast Guard.

Websites

- 1). [The Coast Guard: America's Maritime Defenders](#); This website gives detailed information to the history of the Coast Guard.
- 2). [United States Coast Guard](#); This website also gives good information in addition to the role of the Coast Guard during wartimes.
- 3). [Chronology of the Coast Guard](#); This website gives detailed information concerning the most impactful rescues completed by the Coast Guard.
- 4). [Coast Guard Academy History](#); This website gives information concerning the history of the Coast Guard.
- 5). [5 Awesome Things to Know About US Coast Guard History for Its Birthday](#); This website gives information about the Coast Guard and has an auditory version.

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