



Name: _____

The U.S. Coast Guard: Guardians of the Seas

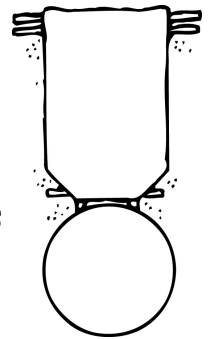
The U.S. Coast Guard is an important branch of the United States military that is responsible for protecting our nation's coasts, ensuring maritime safety, and performing various important missions. Let's explore the role and history of this incredible organization.

Formation and Mission

The U.S. Coast Guard was officially established on August 4, 1790, making it one of the oldest branches of the U.S. military. Its primary missions are to protect the nation's coasts and waterways, ensure maritime safety and security, safeguard the environment, and assist people in distress at sea.

Search and Rescue

One of the most critical duties of the Coast Guard is search and rescue operations. They save people in distress on the water, whether it's from a sinking ship, a stranded boat, or a person swept out to sea. Coast Guard members are often the first to respond to maritime emergencies.



Maritime Law Enforcement

The U.S. Coast Guard enforces laws and regulations at sea. They also ensure that vessels follow safety regulations, protecting both people and the environment.

Environmental Protection

The Coast Guard plays a crucial role in protecting the environment. They respond to oil spills, hazardous material incidents, and other environmental emergencies to prevent damage to marine ecosystems and coastal areas.

Aid to Navigation

Coast Guard members maintain lighthouses, buoys, and other navigation aids. These markers help ships and boats safely navigate coastal waters and avoid hazards. It's like they're the traffic signs of the sea!

Icebreaking and Port Security

In regions where ice covers the waterways in winter, the Coast Guard operates icebreakers to keep shipping lanes open. They also provide security for ports to protect against potential threats.



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Becoming a Coast Guard Member

People who join the Coast Guard can choose from a variety of careers, from becoming a search and rescue swimmer to serving as a maritime law enforcement officer. They undergo training to develop the skills they need to perform their duties effectively.

The U.S. Coast Guard is a vital part of our nation's defense and protection. Its members are everyday heroes who ensure the safety of our coasts, the well-being of those at sea, and the preservation of our marine environment. They embody the values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty, making the U.S. Coast Guard a critical component of the United States' military and maritime services.

1. What is the text structure of this passage? (circle all that apply)

description

cause and effect

compare and contrast

problem and solution

sequence

2. When did the U.S. Coast Guard form? _____

3. What are some jobs the U.S. Coast Guard perform? _____

4. How does the U.S. Coast Guard help ships avoid water hazards? _____

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