

Name _____



Defenders of Freedom

Directions: Read the facts about the five main branches of the U.S. military. When you are finished, answer the questions at the bottom of the page to show what you have learned about our brave veterans.

The **Army** is the oldest and largest branch of the military. It was started in 1775 during the American Revolution. Soldiers in the Army primarily protect our country on **land**. They use tools like tanks and helicopters to complete missions and help keep the peace during emergencies.

The **Navy** is the branch that protects us on, above, and below the **water**. Sailors live and work on huge ships called aircraft carriers, which are like floating airports, and on submarines that travel deep underwater. Their goal is to keep the world's oceans safe for travel and trade.

The **Air Force** was originally part of the Army but became its own branch in 1947. Airmen are experts in **flight**. They fly fast fighter jets, large cargo planes, and even operate satellites. They are responsible for protecting the skies and providing quick help from above whenever it is needed.

The **Marine Corps** is a specialized team that works closely with the Navy but has its own unique mission. Marines are known for being very **tough** and are often the first ones to arrive in a conflict. They are trained to fight on both land and sea using ships, planes, and ground vehicles.

The **Coast Guard** is unique because it is the only branch that has a **law enforcement** mission during peacetime. They protect our coastlines and perform daring search and rescue missions to save people lost at sea. They also make sure that boats follow safety rules in U.S. waters.

1. Which branch is the **oldest** and focuses mostly on missions on land?
2. If you were a pilot flying a **fighter jet** to protect the sky, which branch would you likely belong to?
3. What is a special job that the **Coast Guard** does to help people in trouble on the water?
4. The **Navy** uses "floating airports" to carry planes across the ocean. What are these ships called?
5. How is the **Marine Corps** different from the other branches based on where they are trained to fight?