



ACTIVITY

Quiz: Could You Be A Midshipman

Do your students qualify to be a midshipman in the United States Navy during the War of 1812? Answer these questions to find out. Then, ask your students what they think about these qualifications. Are they still relevant today? In today's navy, the term "midshipmen" refers to men and women who are students at the United States Naval Academy.

Could You Be A Midshipman?

Name _____

Date _____

Do you qualify to be a Midshipman in 1812?
Read the questions below and check yes or no.

1. Are you a boy?

- NO - Sorry! Only men and boys are allowed to serve in the navy.
- YES - Great! All of the Midshipmen in 1812 were men or boys.

2. Can you read and write?

- NO - Sorry! You won't be able to perform your duties as a Midshipman without these skills.
- YES - Off to a good start! A Midshipman needs reading, writing, grammar, and penmanship skills to keep an official journal. Officers in training also need to know math and geography for navigation.

3. Do you have seafaring experience?

- NO -That's okay! It is not required.
- YES - 58% of Midshipmen have previous seafaring experience.

4. Do you come from a coastal state?

- NO- No problem. Midshipmen come from all regions of the United States
- YES - The majority of Midshipman come from Atlantic coastal states.

5. Are you between the ages of 12 and 18?

- NO - That's all right. Boys younger than twelve and men over twenty can serve as Midshipmen.
- YES - You're in good company. The average age is 17.

6. Do you have a letter of recommendation from a senator?

- NO - You will have to get one!
- YES - Good! Political and social connections are essential to gain an appointment as a Midshipman.

Even if you have all the necessary qualifications, your chances of becoming a Midshipman are only one in ten.