

USS Midway Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to the USS Midway! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.**

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

The USS Midway inspires the imagination. What would it have been like to travel on the ship during her commission? Or even just visit as a guest? What would it have been like to work on the ship? What sort of events happened on board? Can you imagine any controversy, or excitement, or maybe just a peaceful stroll on a quiet day? Use your surroundings and your imagination to create a piece of fictional writing.

- a. Draw a storybook or write a short story with illustrations inspired by the USS Midway.
- b. Write a short story inspired by your visit to the USS Midway, including a main character and the main elements of a story (setting, plot, conflict, and resolution).
- c. Choose between writing a fictional first-person narrative or a screenplay inspired by your visit to the USS Midway.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

The engineering and design of the USS Midway are absolutely stunning. Everywhere you look there is visual math. Notice the geometry in the designs, the accuracy of the engineering, and all the application of math all around you. Everyone who worked on the ship had to be proficient in math. Find applications for mathematical thinking and calculation all around you.

- a. Go on a shape hunt. Draw and label the shapes you find. Also, draw a representation of at least two patterns you find.
- b. Look closer at one aspect of the ship. It can be anything: living quarters design, general layout, ship engineering, power equipment, etc. Detail the math it would take to create it. Try to identify at least one part of your chosen area which would require math or skill beyond your current understanding. What could you do to learn that skill?
- c. Math is everywhere. Imagine you are one of the engineers working on the ship. Describe your project and what you would need to know and do to complete it. Choose at least one application of math that you see, estimate measurements, and use calculations to show how the engineer designed and created that element.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

It takes a lot to get a big ship like the USS Midway afloat and running smoothly. From buoyancy to engines, engineering and science are critical to a ship's function.

- a. What makes a ship float? Draw a picture and/or write about the phenomenon.
- b. Investigate one of the main engineering features of the ship. What was it used for? Why is it important? Is it still working now? Why, or why not?
- c. Create your own ship design complete with the basic engineering required for it to work properly. Build a model or draw a picture of our completed ship, and explain its major engineering components as well as your ideas behind your design.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

The USS Midway has a rich and vibrant history! When was it built? How long did it take to build? How has it been used over the years? Has anything interesting happened to the ship?

- a. Write or draw about the beginnings of the USS Midway and what it might have looked like during its building phase.
- b. Choose one historical event that was influential to the history of the USS Midway and detail its timeline and its significance to the ship.
- c. Create a scaled timeline of events for the ship. Include as many events as you can, with brief details on each one. Include a summary of how the ship's rich history has led it to be the attraction it is today.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, smartphone (optional)

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

FUN FACTS

- The Midway is one of the longest-serving aircraft carriers in the United States Navy, operating from September 1945, just after World War II ended until 1992 when she was decommissioned. The USS Midway is now docked in San Diego Bay and has been transformed into one of the most visited ship museums in the world.
- Every Navy ship in the United States has a name beginning with USS, which stands for United States Ship. The Midway was named after an important battle during World War II. This battle, which took place on Midway Island in the Pacific, represented a decisive victory for the Allied forces. That's why the Navy chose Midway for the name of this ship.
- The USS Midway is 1,001 feet long, which is about the length of 3 football fields! The Titanic, by comparison, was just over 880 feet in length. The Midway is as high as a 20-story building. And, she weighs almost 70,000 tons. She has two anchors, each weighing 20 tons, and four propellers, each one measuring 18 feet in diameter.
- The Midway could carry up to 80 planes. She has 3 elevators that were used to move planes from the flight deck to inside the ship. Each of these elevators could carry 110,000 pounds.
- The Midway's crew numbered 4,500 men. In order to keep those men well fed, the Midway's 4 galleys (kitchens) had to serve over 13,000 meals a day!
- Not just a warship, she was also involved in humanitarian efforts. In 1975, the Midway was off the coast of Vietnam to help evacuate South Vietnamese people fleeing from those who had taken over their country. In 1991, when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines, the Midway delivered emergency supplies and rescued stranded American military personnel. Some say that because of her proud career and service, the Midway is "magic".

USS Midway Museum

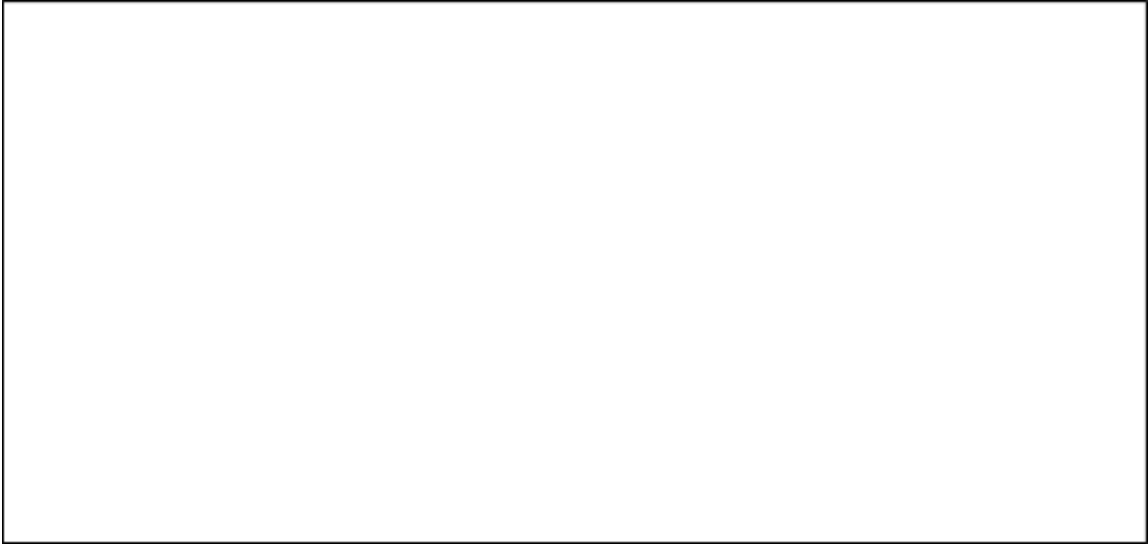
1. Draw a picture of your favorite part of the museum.




2. Describe your favorite part and why you love it.

3. What is buoyancy and why is it important to ships?

4. Draw or describe one example of engineering you saw.



5. Describe or draw one example of communication you saw.



6. How do carrier ships propel themselves through the water?

BONUS:

What is the role of the carrier ship? Which branch of the military is it a part of? Why are they important? Describe one mission the USS Midway was a part of.

