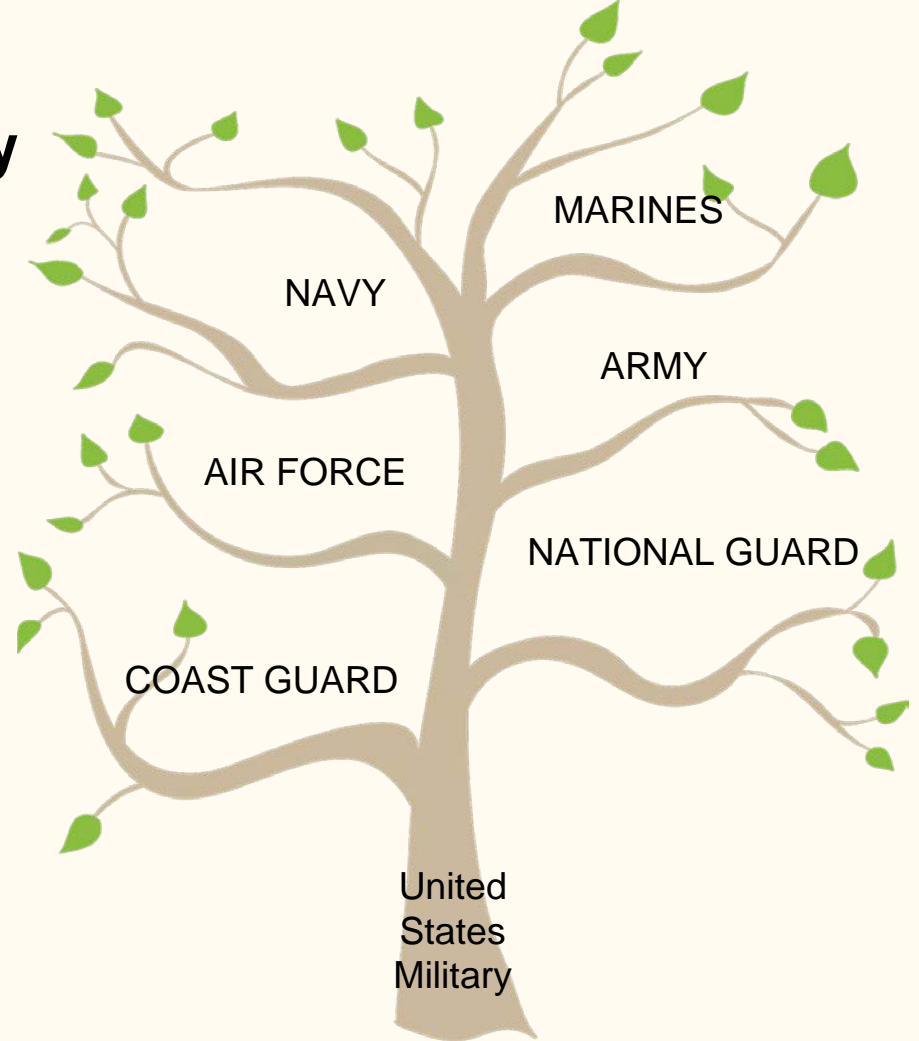


Branches of the Military

The 6 Branches of the Military

The American military is the armed forces of our country, and it is made up of the following branches:



The Department of Defense is responsible for our military operations.

Its mission is “to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country.” The department’s headquarters is at the Pentagon in Washington, DC.



Navy

- This branch of our nation's armed services conducts military operations at sea, world-wide. According to the Department of Defense, its focus is "maintaining the freedom of the seas, deterring aggression, and achieving victory at war."
- Like the Air Force, the Navy has many aircraft to assist with protecting the seas.
- Its soldiers serve in many different occupations on board the Naval ships and vessels, such as pilots, aircraft mechanics and electricians, food service and supply, computer technology, and firefighting.



Army

- The Army is our largest branch of the military. Its primary mission is land defense during war-time and conflict. During times of war or upheaval, Army troops are stationed at the sites of conflict.
- There are many different positions in the Army beyond combat jobs: soldiers can also be engineers, electricians and mechanics, computer techs, medics, police officers, or in administrative or supply roles.



Coast Guard

- The Coast Guard polices our border waters and is responsible for law enforcement, protecting our waters, and saving people at sea. In times of war or conflict, this branch is directed by the Navy.
- The Coast Guard has an active peacetime mission in active law enforcement (such as arresting smugglers) and ocean safety (including enforcing pollution regulations). Coast Guard members also collect oceanographic data to further environmental research.
- One of the Coast Guard's main duties is to rescue people trapped or lost at sea. The Coast Guard has many sites along the nation's coasts to ensure quick rescues when needed, by boat or helicopter.
- Like the other branches, Coast Guard members can hold many different kinds of positions such as mechanical engineers, carpenters, boat mechanics, and electricians.



Marines

- The Marine Corps is a component of the Department of the Navy, and it carries out missions on land and sea, world-wide.
- Marines are responsible for defending Naval bases and ships, guarding U.S. embassies internationally, and assisting in ground combat.
- As a branch, the Marines are about a fourth of the size of the Army.
- In times of combat, Marines are trained to embark from Naval ships and infiltrate sites of conflict in specially-designed aircraft and landing craft. They are also trained in a variety of aircraft, tank, and other military vehicles, as well as a variety of weaponry.



Air Force

- The Air Force reports directly to the Department of Defense. According to the Department of Defense, this branch “trains for and maintains global superiority in air, space and cyberspace and is equipped for a rapid worldwide response.”
- The Air Force provides the United States with aircraft and missile forces and defends the country against similar attacks. It also provides air support to ground troops in time of war and conflict.
- One major department of the Air Force is the space program, including shuttle missions, satellites, missiles, and lasers.



National Guard

- The United States National Guard serves both community and country, providing combat support during wartime, assisting with homeland security operations, carrying out humanitarian efforts in countries affected by natural disasters or crises, and helping on the home front with domestic emergencies like hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters.
- Many of our National Guard members are right here at home with us, serving while also maintaining a civilian career and home life. They can be called up for active duty by state governors or commanding generals for local or state-based emergencies, or called to federal active duty in times of war or during national emergencies.



Quick review:

1. How many branches of the military do we have protecting us on land and in sea and space?
2. How many can you name?
3. Identify at least one specific aspect of each branch.

Now let's apply our new knowledge:
Which branch would you choose and why?



You will write and deliver a speech detailing which branch of the military you would choose, should you decide to serve in the future.

Key assignment information:

1. Think about yourself, your personality, your likes and dislikes, and your skills and talents to decide where you might fit best.
2. Your speech should detail why you would do well in a particular branch, citing evidence from the PowerPoint, your own observations and experiences, and any extra information you have researched (if needed).