

# Activity #1 - Hook Activity: Friend or Foe?

## Objectives:

- Identify the need to correctly classify objects based on physical characteristics.
- Introduce the diversity of life and the importance of classification systems in science.

## Materials:

- ✓ Pictures of various Cold War submarines

[http://www.usnavymuseum.org/images/Slides/Ex14-SovietPatrols/SovietPatrol\\_L-File-Oscar.jpg](http://www.usnavymuseum.org/images/Slides/Ex14-SovietPatrols/SovietPatrol_L-File-Oscar.jpg)



Answer – The sub pictured above is a Soviet Oscar Class SSGN (a foe during the Cold War)

[http://www.usnavymuseum.org/images/Slides/Ex9-Submarines/Exp-Sub\\_Skipjack.jpg](http://www.usnavymuseum.org/images/Slides/Ex9-Submarines/Exp-Sub_Skipjack.jpg)



Answer – The sub pictured above is the USS Skipjack SSN 585 (a US Cold War submarine)



*Answer – The sub pictured above is a Soviet Victor III Class SSN (a foe during the Cold War)*

***Procedure:***

- 1. Show students the above pictures (the images can be found on the museum website)*
- 2. Ask students what kind of submarine each one is. Is it American or Russian? Friend or foe?*

*Realistically, students and adults alike will have no idea what type of subs these are. That's the point. Discuss with students differences and similarities between the pictured subs. Allow students to point out any distinguishing characteristics unique to that particular sub.*

- 3. Allow students to offer suggestions on telling the submarines apart. Reinforce the idea that submarines are very similar in appearance but telling them apart is critical.*
- 4. Relate to students that the same problems exist for biologists when they attempt to study or classify all kinds of living things (birds, fish, insects, trees, etc.)*