

# NAVAL HISTORY STEM-H LESSON PLAN

## TEACHER HELP GUIDE

**LESSON PLAN:** Compare and Contrast Oral Histories to Learn About the Cold War

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**INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL:** After listening/reading an oral history of a Sailor who served during the Cold War, students will choose another prominent individual from the Cold War era and complete a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two individuals' experiences and accomplishments.

**BACKGROUND:** The Cold War refers to the post World War II confrontation between the United States and its allies and the Soviet Union and its allies. From 1945 to 1991 international policies were shaped by intense rivalries between these two groups – noncommunist and communists. This led to military coalitions, weapons development, space race, espionage, and propaganda. It included the “hot” wars of the Cold War: Korea and Vietnam. The Cold War ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

View “The U.S. Navy in the Cold War”:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVAtVFnuRk&list=UUGiS44OoLuJJiAWk341OAw&index=44&feature=plcp> for a ten minute summary of the U.S. Navy’s role across 5 decades following World War II.

### RESOURCES:

History of the Cold War

<http://www.history.navy.mil/wars/coldwar-1.htm>

Naval Historical & Heritage Command: Oral History of World War II

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq87-3.htm>

Library of Congress: Veterans History Project

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

**STANDARDS:** 3A: The student understands major global trends since World War II.  
Explain why the Cold War took place and ended and assess its significance as a 20<sup>th</sup> century event.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR LESSON:** After listening/reading an oral history of a Sailor who served during the Cold War, students will choose another prominent individual from the Cold War era and complete a Venn diagram. *For advanced learners use three or more circles in the Venn diagram.*

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## INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR ACTIVITIES:

**ANTICIPATORY SET:** Draw two large overlapping circles on the board. *For advanced learners use three or more circles in the Venn diagram.* Explain that the section(s) that overlaps are for similarities and the portion of the circles that don't overlap are for differences.

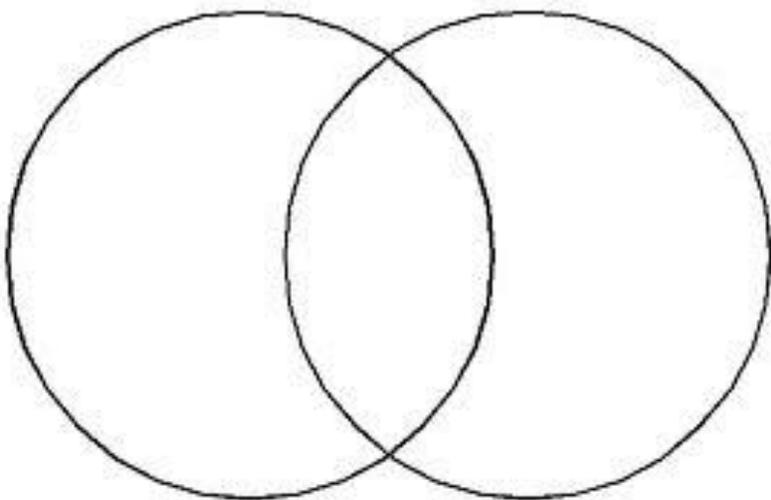
## EXTENSIONS:

1. Students can create additional Venn diagrams using communist and non- communist ideologies.
2. Write an essay (200-250 words) comparing and contrasting these two Sailors. Use complete sentences, along with correct spelling and punctuation.

### Sample of Venn Diagram

## Admiral Wayne Meyer and President Harry S Truman

After conducting oral history research on Admiral Wayne E. Meyer (or a Sailor of your choosing) and President Harry Truman, complete a Venn diagram to compare and contrast these two historical figures.



### Alike:

from Missouri  
military service  
lived during the Cold War  
involved in new weapons (Truman the atomic bomb and Meyer the Aegis System)

### Differences:

Truman: National Guard during World War I; no college degree.

Meyer: Navy at the end of World War II and through the Cold War; degree from Kansas State.