

TOPIC 10 – USS *NORTH DAKOTA*

Topic Overview

Topic 10 highlights the USS *North Dakota* and its importance to the United States Navy. It includes primary sources that will help you understand the role of this battleship and the community of sailors onboard.

Topic Objectives

- As a result of the study of Topic 10, you will be able to
 - Analyze and interpret primary documents.
 - Understand the importance of the USS *North Dakota* in naval history.
 - Explore the lifestyle of sailors onboard the USS *North Dakota*.

ND Content Standards

- 8.1.2
- 8.5.3
- 8.6.1
- 8.6.2

Common Core Standards

- RH 2
- RH7
- WHST 2
- WHST 7

Topic Activities

- Learning from Historical Documents
- Organizing Data
- Creative Interpretation



Learning from Historical Documents

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

Analyzing the Evidence. Historians interpret facts to explain the importance of events in the past. If we analyze two events on the USS *North Dakota*, we can better understand their importance.

Spend some time thinking about one or both of the events listed below. Research. Then, discuss the events or write a paper in which you present more information and explanation for either event.

- Crossing the Line celebration. Why is this celebration so important that ships' crews have done this for centuries? What is the meaning of the costumed characters such as Davy Jones and King Neptune? (research terms might include Davy Jones, King Neptune, line-crossing ceremony)
- The fire in the ship's engine room on September 8, 1910. Three men died, and six men were honored as heroes. The USS *North Dakota* was disabled. Why was this event an important news story in 1910? Is it still important today? (for more information, read the *New York Times* articles on the USS *North Dakota's* fire **USS nd 1 001, 2 001, 3 001, 4 001, 5 001, 6 001.**)



Organizing Data

Analyzing Race and Rank

The men who lived and worked on the USS *North Dakota* were Anglo-American, African-American, and Filipino. The officers and many of the enlisted men were Anglo-American. Rank was an important divider among the ship’s crew. Officers could not socialize with enlisted men, even though they often worked side by side. Race was also an important category in organizing the ship’s work. The social order of the USS *North Dakota* in many ways reflected the way that race and social rank operated in the United States. In 1920, the American people were divided by race. People also believed that society was organized by wealth. People usually worked and socialized in their own class, even though it was possible for a white person to move through social ranks to the very top social class.

Look at the words or activities on the left and write each in the box under the appropriate category. “Integrated” means that officers mixed with enlisted men or that white men mixed with men of color. “Segregated” means that officers did not mix with enlisted men or that white men did not mix with men of color. Make your decisions based on what you have read about life aboard the USS *North Dakota*. Be prepared to defend your decisions with facts that you have found in your reading.

- Doctor
- Cook
- Cleaning the officers’ quarters
- Butcher
- Firing the guns
- Fighting fire
- Dances
- Worship services
- Crossing the line party
- School
- Rowing
- Baseball
- Gymnastics

Segregated

Integrated



Creative Interpretation

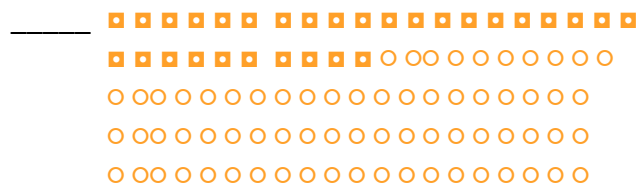
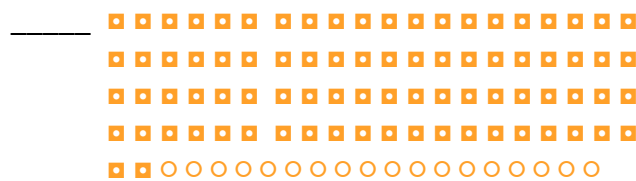
The USS *North Dakota* had a very good rating in gunnery practice. The ABG (All-Big-Gun) ships like the USS *North Dakota* improved on the record of the ships that fought in the Spanish American War (1898). Read about Gunnery Practice and choose the correct answer for the questions from the percentages offered. You may have to do the calculations to complete all the answers.

3% 81.7% 60.518% 30%

1. In gunnery practice for the month of January, 1915, the North Dakota averaged _____ in gunnery practice.
2. Ships that fought the Spanish at the Battle of Manilla Bay in 1898 hit their targets an average of _____ of all shots fired.
3. The North Dakota's best record in gunnery competition was _____ which was better than the score of the USS *Delaware*.
4. When the USS *North Dakota* was being built, the ship's designers and the naval officers in charge of the design believed that the All-Big-Gun ships would probably average _____ in target practice.

Extension Activity

Look at these symbols that represent gunnery shots fired from the USS *North Dakota* in practice. Squares are hits; circles are misses. In the blank to the left of the images, write in the number (from the percentages above) that this image represents.



Creative Interpretation (continued)

