

Battle of the Atlantic

Learning Resources

Exploring the Battle of the Atlantic - Activity 1
Student Question Sheet #3 - The Merchant Navy



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read the 'Canada Remembers the Merchant Navy' historical sheet and answer the following questions.

Section A - True or False

- 1) The Battle of the Atlantic can be described as the struggle between the Allies and the Germans for control of the Atlantic Ocean.

True or False

- 2) More than 50,000 merchant ship voyages were made during the Second World War.

True or False

- 3) Some merchant crews were given training at special schools such as the Marine Engineering Instructional School in Prescott, Ontario.

True or False

- 4) The German production of U-boats was so efficient that for a time, they could turn out U-boats faster than the Allies could sink them.

True or False

- 5) The casualty rate of the merchant mariners during the Battle of the Atlantic was one in seven.

True or False

Section B – Multiple choices

- 1) Canada decided to conscript all merchant ships...
 - a) before the beginning of the Second World War.**
 - b) the first day of the Second World War.**
 - c) six months after the beginning of the Second World War.**
 - d) one year after the beginning of the Second World War.**

- 2) When the Second World War began, Canada had 38 ocean-going merchant vessels. By war's end, how many merchant ships had been built in Canada?
 - a) 75**
 - b) 125**
 - c) 410**
 - d) 660**

- 3) The German Navy continued to improve submarine technology during the war. German scientists invented the schnorkel, a technology that allowed the U-boats to...
 - a) dive deeper than 100 meters for at least fifteen days.**
 - b) locate Allied ships in thick fog.**
 - c) store and tow 50 torpedoes.**
 - d) charge their batteries underwater.**

- 4) During the Battle of the Atlantic, German U-boats sank ships in these Canadian waters:
 - a) Gulf of St Lawrence**
 - b) Miramichi River**
 - c) Saguenay River**
 - d) Lake Ontario**

- 5) Approximately how many Canadian merchant mariners died during the Second World War?
 - a) 500**
 - b) 1,000**
 - c) 1,500**
 - d) 2,500**

Section C – Written answers

- 1) How many Canadian men and women served in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War?

- 2) On August 26, 1939, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) took control of all shipping. Were merchant crews compelled to sail on the dangerous ocean passages? Please justify.

- 3) What does the term 'U-boat' mean?

- 4) What did the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) do to help protect merchant ships?

- 5) What were the Merchant Aircraft Carriers (MACs)?
