



## PUGET SOUND NAVY MUSEUM

251 1<sup>ST</sup> Street, Bremerton, WA 98337

(360) 340-5377

[www.PugetSoundNavyMuseum.org](http://www.PugetSoundNavyMuseum.org)

### More Than Just a Boat!

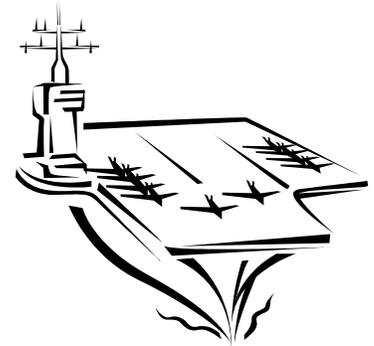
**Overview:** Aircraft carriers are more than just floating airports, they are like floating cities! Work together as a class to create a star chart of the all the things (departments) you think might be on one of the US Navy's aircraft carriers.

**Grade Level:** 2-5

**Time:** 30 min.

**Essential Questions:** After you've made your chart, try to answer these questions.

- What places are essential parts of a community?
- How do you think the men and women who live and work on aircraft carriers take care of their floating home and the other people who live there?
- What are some of the things produced on an aircraft carrier? What are some of the things used or consumed on an aircraft carrier?
- What do you think the places chosen to be included on an aircraft carrier tell us about what we think is important in our everyday lives?



**Washington EALRs:** Social Studies 1.4.1  
Social Studies 2.2.1  
Social Studies 5.4

**Materials Needed:** chalkboard, white board or large poster on which to create your chart

**Background Information:** Aircraft carriers are best known as the ships that carry, load, launch, and land many of the US Navy's airplanes and helicopters all over the world. Aircraft carriers are, first and foremost, warships. They are built to house, move, launch and land military aircraft. Many things we take advantage of and don't think about are part of daily life on an aircraft carrier. In a city, or even a military base on land, you might find power lines delivering electricity throughout town; on an aircraft carrier there are two nuclear reactors generating all of the electricity that is need to run everything onboard. You can turn on a faucet and have fresh water, but on an aircraft carrier you need to *desalinate* (take the salt out of) the water. These and many more common things have to be made on board the ship.

But, people seldom think carefully about all of the men and women who serve on board these massive ships and all of the things that go into making their lives normal. These ships, which are over 1,000 feet long (more than the length of 3 football fields!), hold about 90 airplanes and helicopters and up to 6,500 men and women! When an aircraft carrier goes out on *deployment* – an extended period of duty at sea – the men and women on it can be away from home for between 6 months and over a year! Because they are away from family, friends, even dry land for that long, it is important that their ship become a home away from home. Most of the places that you visit regularly are available onboard the ship. Think of an aircraft carrier as a floating city for the men and women on board.

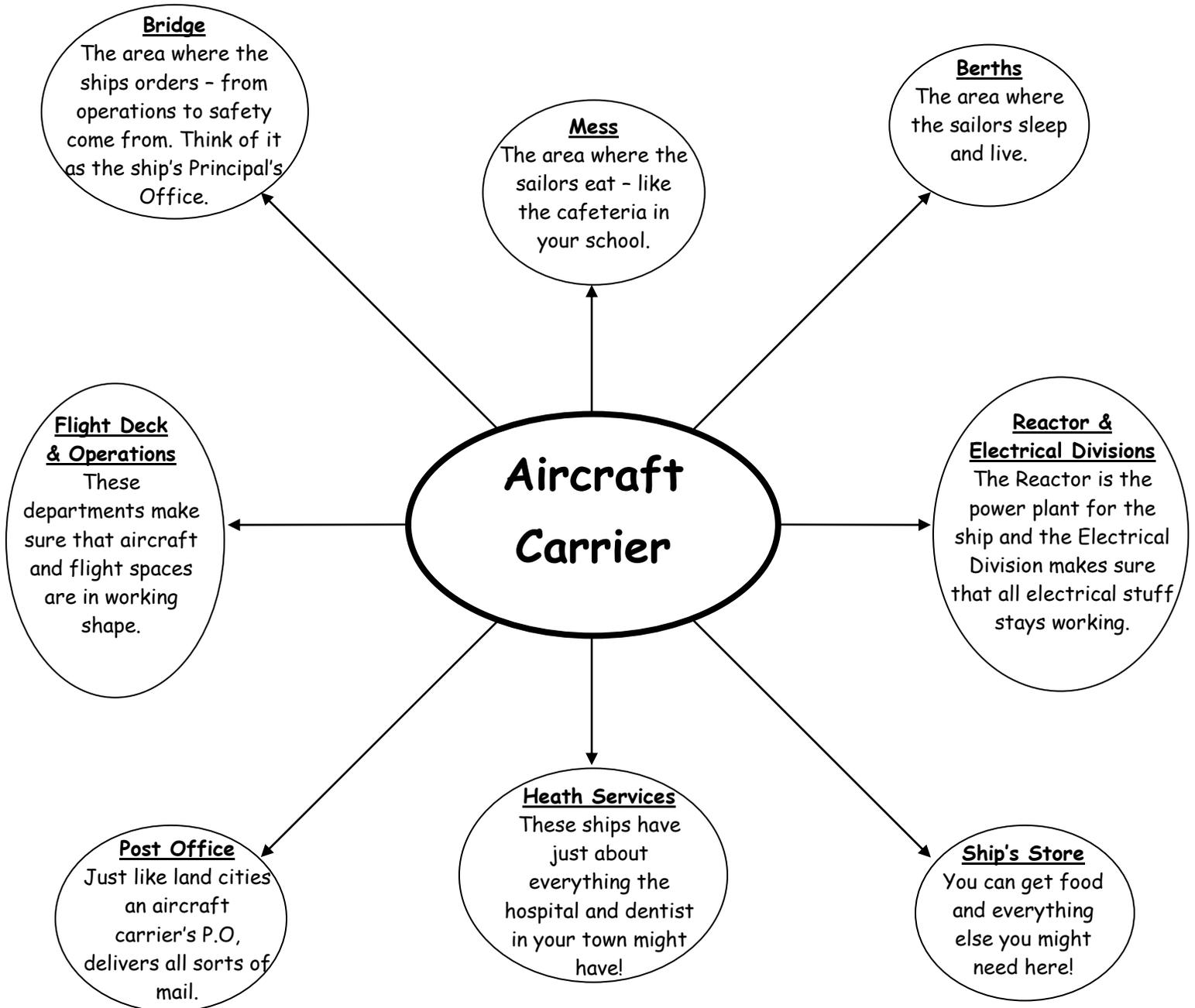
# AIRCRAFT CARRIER STAR CHART

**Question:** How many people do you think live and work on an aircraft carrier, how many people live in your town?

**Answer:** A full aircraft carrier can have up to 6,500 men and women aboard!

**Question:** What are the places in your town that you go to or use regularly? Do you think that you could find those

places on a boat or ship? **Answer:** Places you might go regularly may include home, work/school, the park/playground, the grocery store, the mall, restaurants, the Post Office, the library, the doctor/dentist. Aircraft carriers have all of these places and more on board the ship!



**Some other places and things you can find aboard an aircraft carrier include:**

- Airport
- Basketball court
- Gym
- Laundromats
- Library
- Maintenance shops
- Military Police
- Movie Theatre
- Offices
- School (college)
- Water processing plant
- Weather station



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