

# "We'll need 4,800 hot dogs for lunch"

## A Comparison and Mathematics Activity for Pre-visit and on the Tour

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The cooks and bakers of the NORTH CAROLINA provided three hot meals each day to approximately 2,000 men. The entire crew could complete a meal in about 30 minutes.

### ***PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION:***

In any visit to the ship, it is important to find ways in which the children can identify with the crew. If they can begin to think about how men ate, where they slept, or where they got their hair cut, and compare these things with their own lives, they will have a better understanding of the ship and what it was like to live on her. Identifying with the familiar will also perhaps encourage them to better imagine the less familiar such as firing the guns or the fear of being under attack.

One familiar activity is eating in a cafeteria on trays. The men were served their food cafeteria style in much the same way school children are served today. They also ate off of metal trays divided into sections, which also look like most school trays. Since school children understand what cafeterias are and have probably used metal or plastic trays, this is one area in which they can identify with the sailors. It is one area of the ship which will look somewhat familiar.

### ***GAME:***

You can play a game of who can spot the metal trays first or find where the bread was baked or find the giant mixing bowls.

### ***QUESTIONS:***

1. You can ask the children to compare the ship's mess decks to your school cafeteria. How are they alike? How do they differ?
2. Where would the children prefer to eat - aboard the ship or at school? Why?
3. Look at the tables, do they notice anything different about the tables? If not, have them look at the rims and how they are raised. Can the children guess why the rims are necessary? Could it be to prevent your trays from sliding off the table when the ship is rolling?

***PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES:***

We invite you to use some sample menus, recipes, and a serving size chart to conduct pre-visit activities.

***MENUS AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION:***

We have included a copy of a "Bill of Fare for the General Mess". The ship's commissary officer would complete this form which shows the week's menu for the crew. This bill was from the Naval Training Station in Great Lakes, Illinois, where one of our cooks received his training.

The children can use this weeks long menu to compare what the men ate with what they eat - both at school and at home.

In fact, you could have the children discuss what they think the men ate on a ship and see how their guesses compare with what the men actually ate.

1. Ask them if they think the men ate well.
2. Are any of their favorite foods missing from the menu?
3. Which meals do they like best from the week's menu? The least?
4. Do they think that it would be hard to fix food for 2,000 men?
5. Do they think that it would be hard to please 2,000 men?
6. Do the meals look well balanced?

We have also included copies of two holiday menus. One is from the Battleship's first birthday. The other is the Christmas menu from the first Christmas after the war was over.

These menus can be used for several activities.

1. Each of the original menus is printed on paper like menu form a restaurant and they are decorated appropriately for the particular occasion. The children can choose a favorite holiday or one that is close at hand or their birthday, and design a formal decorated menu which can be distributed to family and friends. Perhaps they could create a collage from magazine cut-outs showing what they would serve at their special occasion.
2. The children can compare what is eaten at their house on special occasions with what is on these menus.
3. The children can compare the two menus and see what they can find that is alike and what is different.

***RECIPES, CHARTS AND MATH:***

The recipes and ration charts provide opportunities for fun and practical ways of using multiplication and division.

The ration chart contains a list of meals and how much (in pounds) is suggested for 50 men and 1000 men.

Using the chart, the children can determine how much would be required for serving:

1. The 2,000 enlisted men aboard the Battleship.
2. The Children in their school
3. The Children in their classroom
4. Their family

There are three recipes attached: one for apple pie filling and two from the book *Covo Tested Formulas* (the cover of which is included).

Activities similar to those suggested above can be carried out using these recipes.

Another suggestion is to have the children bring favorite recipes from home to calculate how they would alter the amounts to serve the same groups: the crew, the school, their classroom, their family.

You may also wish to have the children discuss why they think the ship's recipes tend to be in pounds and ounces and those from home are in cups and tablespoons.