

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

of CALIFORNIA

Public History Program

MARITIME HISTORY- Marinship Corporation and the Waterfront Strikes of 1901 and 1934

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Title/Overview	Pg#1
B. Vital Information.....	Pg#2
a. Context of Site	
C. Key Concepts & Standards.....	Pg#2
a. Big Ideas & Essential Questions	
b. Learning Outcome(s)	
c. Standard(s)	
d. Additional Information	
D. Pre-Lesson.....	Pg#5
a. Materials & Resources	
b. Implementation	
c. Assessments	
E. Ship Activity (30 minute).....	Pg#5
a. Materials & Resources	
b. Implementation	
c. Assessments	
F. Post Activity.....	Pg#6
a. Materials & Resources	
b. Implementation	
c. Assessments	
G. Reflection.....	Pg#6

Maritime History of the Bay Area

Vital Information

Context of Site:

The purpose of this site is to be able to inform students aboard the ship Matthew Turner about important areas, aspects, and locations in the broader Bay Area which have played a significant role in California history as well as United States History. These ideas are broken up into four specific topics: Maritime History, Defending the Bay, Migrations, and Unrest and Protest. Each topic has subtopics and concepts which will help the students learn more in depth history of certain events within the Bay which will help grow their knowledge and understanding of the history of the Bay Area.

Key Concepts and Standards

Big Ideas & Essential Questions:

Understanding the importance and significance of the Marinship Corporation and how it brought about the development of the wartime industry in California as well as the development of opportunities during and after the Second World War for women, African Americans and minorities. Understand how the Waterfront Strikes in the Bay Area led to unrest and ultimately to safer working conditions and more benefits for workers within the marine industrial sector of the Bay Area.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to analyze how Marinship played a key role in creating new opportunities for women, African Americans and other minorities in terms of job opportunity during and after the Second World War. Students will also be able to identify how Marinship played an important part in the development of industry during the Second World War and how the war industry expanded even after the war.

Students will be able to compare the Waterfront Strike of 1901 with the Waterfront Strike of 1934 and state how these Strikes played a role in creating safer working conditions as well as more benefits for workers in the Maritime Industry of the Bay Area.

Standards:

CHSS Standards:

Marinship:

“How did World War II serve to advance movements for equality at home and abroad?”

Waterfront Strikes:

“How did ordinary people respond to the Great Depression?”

8th/11th Grade State Learning Standards

11.6.5:

"Trace the advances and retreats of organized labor, from the creation of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations to current issues of a postindustrial, multinational economy, including the United Farm Workers in California."

11.7.5:

"Discuss the constitutional issues and impact of events on the U.S. home front, including the internment of Japanese Americans (e.g., *Fred Korematsu v. United States of America*) and the restrictions on German and Italian resident aliens; the response of the administration to Hitler's atrocities against Jews and other groups; the roles of women in military production; and the roles and growing political demands of African Americans."

11.7.6:

"Describe major developments in aviation, weaponry, communication, and medicine and the war's impact on the location of American industry and use of resources"

11.10.1:

"Explain how demands of African Americans helped produce a stimulus for civil rights, including President Roosevelt's ban on racial discrimination in defense industries in 1941, and how African Americans' service in World War II produced a stimulus for President Truman's decision to end segregation in the armed forces in 1948."

Additional Information:

On the topic of relating these major issues to the state learning standards there are a few major ones to be discussed. The first learning standard would be 11.7.5 which states, "Discuss the constitutional issues and impact of events on the U.S. home front... and the roles and growing political demands of African Americans" tying into the *James vs Marinship* court case. It is important *James vs Marinship* is taught because of the major impact it has on civil rights in California and America. Thurgood Marshall was involved and helped Joseph James since Marshall was Chief Legal Council for the NAACP. Marshall later fought on one of if not the most important cases for civil rights in our nation's history: *Brown vs Board of Education*. The next learning standard would be 11.7.6 which states, "Describe major developments in aviation, weaponry, communication, and medicine and the war's impact on the location of American industry and use of resources" bringing the *Marinship* corporation into the learning standards. Another major learning standard would be 11.10.1, which states "Explain how demands of African Americans helped produce a stimulus for civil rights, including President Roosevelt's ban on racial discrimination in defense industries in 1941..." another standard which ties into the *Marinship* court case, *James vs Marinship* and the precursor executive order which had little impact on the discriminatory practices of labor unions and corporations.

The main California learning standard comes from the 11th grade standards, with the main question being: How did World War II serve to advance movements for equality at home and abroad? The explanation for this question included that "wartime factory work created new and higher-paying job opportunities for women, African Americans, and other minorities" and how "the defense-related industries became especially critical to California's economy...these jobs drew enormous numbers of migrants from other parts of the country." *Marinship* did create many opportunities for migrant and minority workers to be able to participate and collect wages. *Marinship* allowed both women and African Americans to work in the factories even though there still was some fault in the employment practices of the labor unions. The rise of *Marinship* also boosted California's economy, as well as the economy in the Bay Area. The influx of people moving out west forced the building of Marin City in order to house workers and address the housing shortage that *Marinship* was facing for its employees. Marin City housed thousands of workers over the war years and stands even today.

For the Waterfront Strikes of 1901 and 1934, the following learning standards will apply: 11.6.5 "Trace the advances and retreats of organized labor, from the creation of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations to current issues of a postindustrial, multinational economy, including the United Farm Workers in California." This applies to the Waterfront Strikes because the postindustrial

era brought many factories and industries into the San Francisco Bay Area. This brought many workers and led to the development of many unions related to these industries.

Expansionary fiscal and monetary policies, job programs, and regulatory agencies are a few of the broad roles for government set in place by the New Deal. This question may frame students' investigations of the New Deal: How did the New Deal attempt to remedy problems from the Great Depression? Key New Deal innovations included the right to collective bargaining for unions, minimum- wage and hours laws and Social Security for the elderly, disabled, unemployed, and dependent women and children. Taken together, these new developments created the principle that the government has a responsibility to provide a safety net to protect the most vulnerable Americans; the legacy of these safety net programs created the notion of the modern welfare state. The question posed is **How did ordinary people respond to the Great Depression?** Many workers had migrated to California in search of opportunities brought about by the development in new industries such as shipbuilding. However, many of these Americans found themselves being treated poorly and given the economic situation the United States was facing, many workers were frustrated and upset. This sparked the Waterfront Strike of 1934, which prompted workers to demand higher wages to provide them with livable wages and also a higher quality of work conditions. Eventually the strike was alleviated with the increase and wages and the eventual shift to safer working conditions.

Pre-Lesson

Materials and Resources:

Pen or pencil, handouts

Implementation:

Students will be provided a handout with information regarding the background of Marinship and its influence on the history of the Bay Area. Students will also read about the Waterfront Strike of 1934 and how it influenced unions and jobs in the Bay Area.

Assessments:

Students will then receive another one page handout with sentences where they will fill in the blanks and turn in for credit.

Ship Activity

Materials and Resources:

Pen or pencil, handout

Implementation:

Students will listen to both the oral histories provided by the Sausalito Historical Society while on the ship. Students will listen to all of the oral history by Dick Miller and listen to the first 11 minutes and 30 seconds of the interview with Moses Beard.

Assessments:

Students will receive a handout and will answer questions about the oral histories and how they relate to the learning standards and how the oral histories help people understand more about Marinship.

Post Activity

Materials and Resources:

Pen or pencil, paper

Implementation:

Using what the students learned, write a short response (2-3 paragraphs) on how Marinship and the Waterfront Strikes were influential in the development of the Bay Area as well as how these topics helped improve the opportunities for workers during the Great Depression and WW2.

Assessments:

Attached is the rubric for grading the responses.

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	Excellent 2 pts	Proficient 1.5 pts	Developing 1 pts	No Answer 0 pts	
Key Idea and Details Cites specific text evidence to support analysis of primary or secondary sources.	Excellent Student answer contains fully relevant and accurate evidence that shows a complete understanding of the question / topic.	Proficient Student uses some relevant and accurate evidence that shows some understanding of the question / topic.	Developing Student uses evidence and/or information that is not connected to an understanding of the question / topic.	No Answer No response or response not legible.	
Cite Evidence Cites text evidence to answer the question.	Excellent Student cites text evidence that directly supports an answer to the question.	Proficient Student cites text evidence that connects to the question but does not answer the question fully.	Developing Student cites text evidence that does not answer the question.	No Answer No response or incorrect text evidence is cited.	
Vocabulary Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text.	Excellent Student uses the context to determine the accurate meaning of vocabulary word(s) in the text specific to history/social studies.	Proficient Student uses the context to come close to the meaning of vocabulary word(s) in the text specific to history/social studies.	Developing Student attempts to use the context to determine the meaning of vocabulary word(s) but does not come close to an accurate definition.	No Answer Student makes no attempt to determine the meaning of vocabulary	

				y word(s).	
Structure and Style Clear and coherent writing.	Excellent a. answer is in full and complete sentence(s) b. less than two spelling and grammar errors	Proficient a. answer in complete sentence(s) b. more than two spelling and grammar errors c. errors do not affect understanding	Developing a. answer is not in complete sentence(s) b. multiple spelling and grammar errors c. errors take away from understanding the answer	No Answer No answer attempted or writing is illegible.	

Reflection

Reflection Questions:

1. Did you know anything about the Marinship Corporation or the Waterfront Strikes prior to reading about them? If so, was there any new information you learned about either of these topics?
2. In your opinion were the topics of Marinship and the Waterfront Strikes influential in the history of the Bay Area? Why or why not?
3. What was the most interesting thing you learned about the Marinship Corporation?
4. What was the most interesting thing you learned about the Waterfront Strikes?
5. How was your overall experience learning about the Marinship Corporation and the Waterfront Strikes?