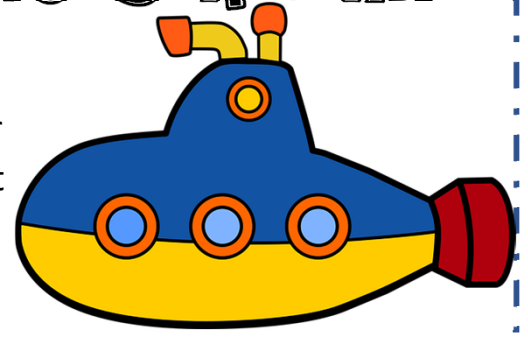


## 5

# Life as a Submarine Captain



Being a submarine captain is like leading a secret underwater mission. These brave officers command powerful vessels that glide silently beneath the waves.

To become a submarine captain, you need more than just a love for the sea. Submarine officers undergo rigorous training. They learn about electrical systems, sonar operation, repairs, weaponry, navigation, and even cooking and supply roles. Imagine being a chef and a sailor at the same time! Unlike surface ship captains, submarine officers specialize in undersea warfare. They don't need surface warfare training. Instead, they train ashore and then qualify while aboard a submarine.

Submarine captains start as division officers and work their way up. They serve as executive officers on submarines, gaining valuable experience in the most stressful environment – underwater!

Imagine waking up inside a steel tube, surrounded by water!

A submarine captain begins with a briefing. The captain gathers with the crew to discuss the mission, safety protocols, and any challenges ahead. As the submarine glides through the ocean, the captain monitors navigation systems. They ensure the vessel stays hidden from enemy eyes. Submarine captains make critical decisions. Should they dive deeper? Change course? Engage in stealth mode? Their choices impact the safety of the crew and the success of the mission. Captains lead by example. They inspire their crew, manage conflicts, and maintain morale. Everyone – from the newest sailor to the commanding officer – is part of the same team. Submarines practice emergency scenarios regularly. The captain ensures everyone knows their roles during fires, floods, or other crises. Submarines operate silently. The crew whispers, and even footsteps are muffled. The captain maintains this eerie quietness to avoid detection.

After a long day, the captain reviews reports, checks systems, and prepares for the next challenge. Then, they retire to their bunk, surrounded by the hum of machinery and the gentle sway of the sea.

Being a submarine captain is both thrilling and demanding. These unsung heroes navigate the depths, protect their crew, and carry out vital missions. So next time you hear about submarines, remember the dedicated captains who lead them – hidden beneath the waves, ensuring our safety and security.

# 5

# Life as a Submarine Captain

Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. What is the primary role of a submarine captain?**
  - a. navigating the depths
  - b. repairing electrical systems
  - c. leading surface warfare missions
  
- 2. How do submarine officers qualify for their role?**
  - a. doing underwater surface warfare training
  - b. attending many naval classes
  - c. serving as division officers
  
- 3. What do submarine captains do during quiet hours?**
  - a. play music
  - b. practice emergency drills
  - c. whisper to each other
  
- 4. What is the main focus of a submarine officers' training?**
  - a. undersea warfare
  - b. surface navigation
  - c. repairing engines
  
- 5. Why do submarines operate silently?**
  - a. to avoid waking up the crew
  - b. to prevent detection
  - c. to conserve energy

# 5

# Life as a Submarine Captain

## Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
  2. Making Connections
  3. Summarizing
  4. Visualizing
- 
1. How do you think the isolation of being underwater impacts the mental health of submarine crew members? What strategies could a captain use to maintain good morale?
  2. Describe a challenge the submarine captain might face during a mission and how he might approach it?
  3. Explain what the pros and cons of being a submarine captain might be.
  4. Describe how you think life in the underwater submarine might be and feel?
- 
- Research and write about a historical event where a submarine was involved in a mission.
  - Compare and contrast the differences between a surface ship captain and a submarine captain.
  - What roles might technology have in submarines and how might they be used?
  - Would you want to be a submarine captain? Why or why not?