Shipyards

Shipyards are a mainstay of most countries’ histories. What are the purposes of shipyards?

2. Discuss the role of shipyards in the history of the United States. How did shipyards influence or shape U.S. history?

3. Shipyards can be enormous. Discuss how shipyards can function like an independent city.

4. Modern shipyards are composed of many different types of individual shops. What are some of these shops? Discuss their role in the process of shipbuilding.

5. Shipyards are unique unto themselves. What sets shipyards apart from other types of manufacturing plants?

6. What is dry dock?

7. Discuss the process by which ships are built.

8. Pre-assemblies have increased the speed of shipbuilding by tremendous rates. What are pre-assemblies? How have they made shipbuilding faster and more efficient?
9. Shipbuilders use different types of cranes. Compare and contrast gantry and boom cranes.
10. Discuss how shipbuilding is both a skill and an art.
11. Discuss the historical evolution of shipbuilding.
12. Discuss the role of trade in shipbuilding history.
13. Maine was the site of many of America’s earliest shipyards. Why were so many U.S. ships built in Maine?
14. As energy forms changed, so did shipbuilding. How did steam power change shipbuilding?
15. What is the role of war in modern shipbuilding?

Extended Activities

1. Newport News is one of America’s greatest shipyards. Research Newport News Shipyard on the Internet and use your data, and the medium of your choice, to construct a visual historical narrative of the shipyard.
2. Create a poster illustrating the process of modern day shipbuilding.