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## News CHART

As you read in "Separated by War," Krissy Kolasheski's dad serves in the U.S. Army. It is one of five branches of the U.S. military. Each branch protects our country. Use this chart to answer the questions.

Branch	Year Created	Did You Know?	Current Number of Troops*
Army	1775	George Washington was the first commander of the Army.	508,000
Navy	1775	The Navy has 289 ships and more than 3,700 aircraft in service.	325,000
Marine Corps	1775	Often the first branch to go into a dangerous area on land or at sea.	187,000
Coast Guard	1790	Defends U.S. coastlines and waterways and makes sure people obey the laws in those places.	41,000
Air Force	1947	The Air Force was part of the Army until it became a separate branch.	325,000

1. Which branch of the U.S. military is the largest?

2. Which two branches have about the same number of people serving in them?

3. What is the job of the U.S. Coast Guard?

## News CHALLENGE: Pages 2-3

- Based on "Bye-Bye, Plastic Bags," which will likely happen as a result of the plastic bag ban?  
 (A) Plastic bags will rot away faster.  
 (B) More people will use recycled paper bags or reusable bags.  
 (C) More ocean animals will try to eat bags and choke on them.  
 (D) More plastic bags will be manufactured.
- According to the study in "Taking a Stand," what is one way standing in class is good for students?  
 (A) It encourages students to participate.  
 (B) It helps students burn calories.  
 (C) It improves students' posture.  
 (D) It helps students see the board better.
- Based on her quote in the article, Jadyn Warner would most likely agree with which of the following statements?  
 (A) Tall desks help students pay attention.  
 (B) Tall desks are a bad idea.  
 (C) Standing during class is distracting.  
 (D) Standing during class is tiring.

## News CHALLENGE: Pages 4-5

- Which sentence is most likely to be included in a summary of the article "Separated by War"?  
 (A) Krissy's dad has been in Iraq three times.  
 (B) Krissy celebrated her 11th birthday in September.  
 (C) Krissy's dad is serving in Afghanistan.  
 (D) Krissy used to live in Georgia.
- What happened soon after Krissy turned 11?  
 (A) Her dad's birthday gift arrived in the mail.  
 (B) Her dad came home for a short visit.  
 (C) She got to visit her dad in Afghanistan.  
 (D) She found out her family would be moving.
- Which phrase is closest in meaning to *deployed*?  
 (A) being overseas  
 (B) serving in a war  
 (C) keeping in touch  
 (D) returning home
- According to the sidebar "Honoring Our Troops," a new memorial honors \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (A) parents who serve in the military  
 (B) kids whose parents serve in the military  
 (C) veterans who are disabled  
 (D) soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Word Choice  
Common Core RI.4.4

# Why Say It Like That?

Authors choose words carefully to communicate a specific message or try to make the reader feel a certain way. Below are some phrases from "Separated by War" that use emotional language. Complete the chart to analyze the author's choice of words. Then answer the question below.

Word choice that stands out	What it makes me think	Why I think the author chose this word or phrase
"There's an <u>empty space</u> without my dad here," Krissy says.		
"... aren't the only family <u>coping with</u> having a loved one in a war zone."		
"Still, Krissy <u>treasures</u> the calls."		
"... she got a <u>special gift</u> : Her dad came home for a short visit."		

**Write About It:** How does the author's choice of words contribute to the article's main idea? Use details from the article to support your answer.

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