

13. Naval Warships

Warships protect the movement over water of military forces to coastal areas where they may be used against the enemy. The first destroyers were essentially coastal craft, their larger successors could accompany battle fleets to sea. It soon became apparent that a destroyer was in effect a superior sort of torpedo boat, capable of delivering its weapon against capital ships. By World War II the aircraft carrier—a ship capable of launching, recovering, and storing aircraft—could themselves destroy ships. Some of these roles can be combined into a single vessel but others require a dedicated vessel.



Modern warships are generally divided into seven main categories, which are: aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, corvettes, submarines and amphibious assault ships.

