# Coast Guard History

The Coast Guard was created in 1790. It existed five years before the U.S. Navy. It was originally part of the U.S. Department of Treasury, and it was called the United States Revenue Cutter Service. A "cutter" is a type of boat. The Cutter Service was suggested by Founding Father Alexander Hamilton as a way to collect the tariffs (taxes) that the U.S. was losing to smugglers. It was also a way to make sure that goods exported from the U.S. made it to foreign markets.

The Coast Guard as it exists today was created in 1915 when the United States Revenue Cutter Service merged with the United States Life-Saving Service. The Lighthouse Service was put in the Coast Guard's charge in 1939, and the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation was added in 1942. In 1967, the Coast Guard was moved underneath the U.S. Department of Transportation, It was moved again in 2003 to become part of the Department of Homeland Security. Although the Navy was temporarily disbanded after the American Revolution, the Coast Guard has been in continuous existence since it was created.

1. Why was the Coast Guard created?

2. What three government Departments, in order, has the Coast Guard belonged to?