

Name _____ **Comparing Authors**

The Navy SEALs



DIRECTIONS: Read the two passages. Then answer the questions.

The Sea, Air and Land forces of the U.S. Navy, known as SEALs, are specially trained warriors that take on intensely challenging and usually exceptionally dangerous missions that the use of standard military forces cannot accomplish. Their missions are often clandestine and of high military and political value, for example, when a Navy SEAL team captured and killed Osama Bin Laden in Afghanistan. Their responsibilities include direct action warfare, special reconnaissance, counterterrorism and foreign internal defense. Key characteristics of these elite warriors include critical thinking, indomitable willpower and total dedication to their training, their missions and their fellow Special Operations team members.

The U.S. Navy SEALs were established by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. They are trained to operate in all environments—sea, air and land—hence their name, and SEALs carry out missions everywhere from the scorching desert, the freezing Arctic, the humid jungle, and under water. They usually work in small units which are easy for the military to insert into and extract from tense situations in a nimble and usually clandestine manner. The types of warfare conducted by SEALs is unconventional. They are often used to capture high-value enemy personnel and terrorists around the world. They collect information and intelligence through special reconnaissance missions. They can also retrieve things from under water or take care of the demolition of natural or man-made obstacles prior to amphibious landings. Only males are permitted to become U.S. Navy SEALs.

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1. How do the SEALs get their name?

2. Why are the SEALs of special value to the U.S. military?

3. Based on what you read, and extrapolating from that, which of the following qualities do you think a Navy SEAL would have to have? List all that apply.

- a. critical thinking
- b. be male
- c. be under 26
- d. dedication to training
- e. will power
- f. team player
- g. physically fit

4. In which of the following environments do you think a Navy SEAL would be likely to carry out a mission? List all that apply.

- a. In a jungle
- b. on a mountain
- c. under water
- d. in the arctic
- e. in a small town in the U.S.