



Ship Names & Louisiana Geography



How do you name a ship? In the United States, there is a system used to name all of the different types of ships used by the Navy. That system has changed some over the years, but if one learns the system, they can tell what type of ship a vessel is simply by learning its name. The same is true of Coast Guard ship and U.S. Army vessels. Let's look at the system used by the U.S. Navy during World War II. Here's how it worked:

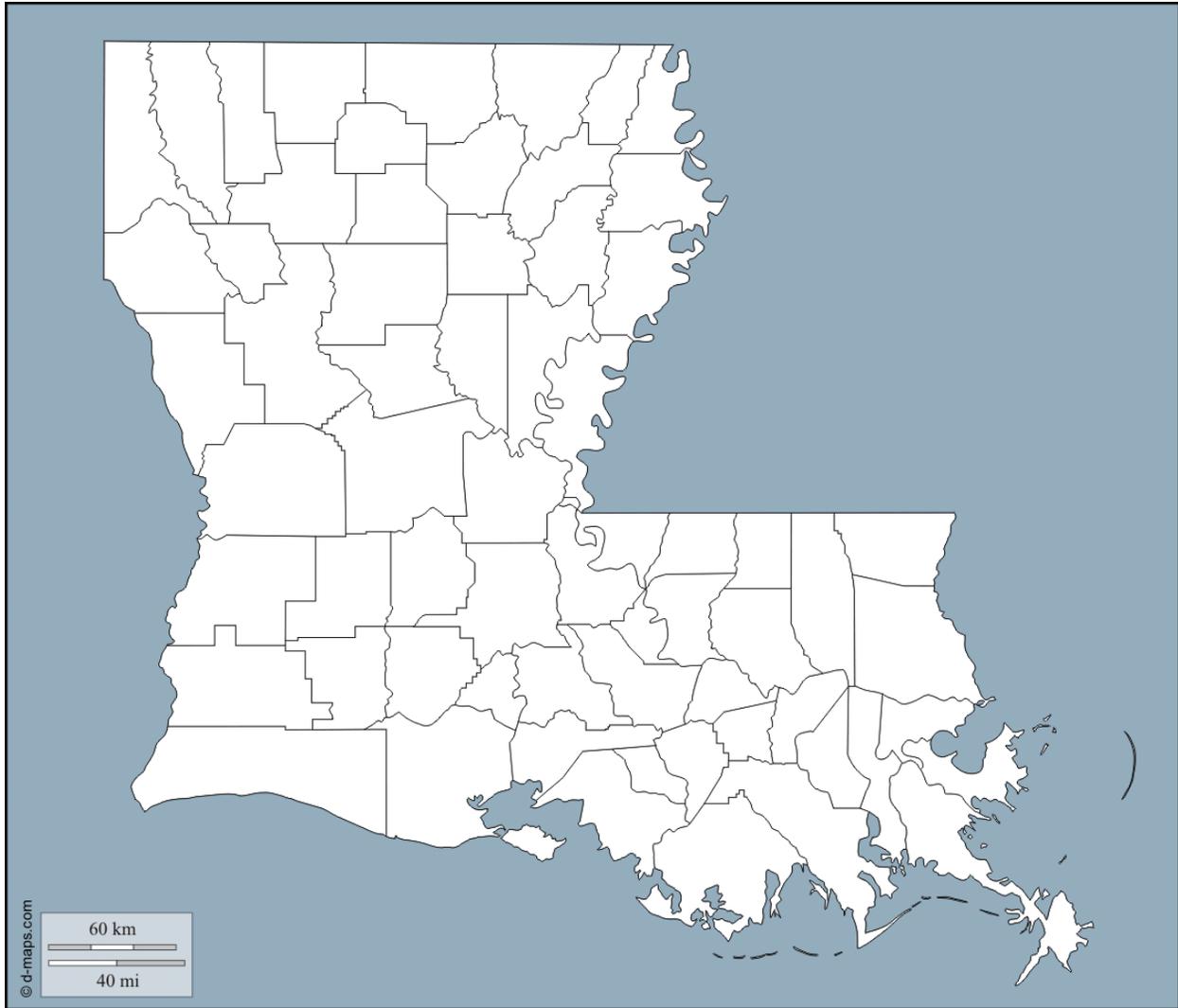
Type of Ship	Named For
Aircraft Carriers (fleet)	Battles and famous old ships
Aircraft Carriers (escort/light)	Sounds, bays, islands, and famous American battles
Battleships	States
Cruisers	Cities
Destroyers	Heroes of the USN or USMC
Submarines	Sea creatures
Oilers	Native American rivers
Tugs	Native American tribes

After World War II, the naming systems changed. Amphibious landing craft began to be named for rivers, as well as counties and parishes. Battleships were no longer being built, so a new type of submarine—nuclear missile submarines—took over the state names as well as famous American statesmen. Cruisers ceased production for a while so city names moved to attack submarines. Aircraft carriers began to be named (for the most part) for American presidents. New cruisers began to be built and—with the old city names taken—began to be named for famous battles. Destroyers, oilers, and tugs kept their old system and did not change. The system has continued to evolve and change as the Navy stops building older types of ships and begins building newer, different designs.

The U.S. Coast Guard names vessels after islands, rivers, bays, sounds, trees, and famous lighthouse keepers or USCG personnel. U.S. Army vessels are often named for famous battles or generals. The Confederate States Navy during the Civil War varied greatly in its naming practices. U.S. Merchant Marine vessels do not have a standardized naming system either.

The ship's prefix shows its nation of origin and/or which branch of the military that it serves.

USS	United States Ship (Navy)	CSS	Confederate States Ship
USCGC	United States Coast Guard Cutter	SS	Steamship (Merchant Marine)
USAV	United States Army Vessel	MV	Motor Vessel (Merchant Marine)



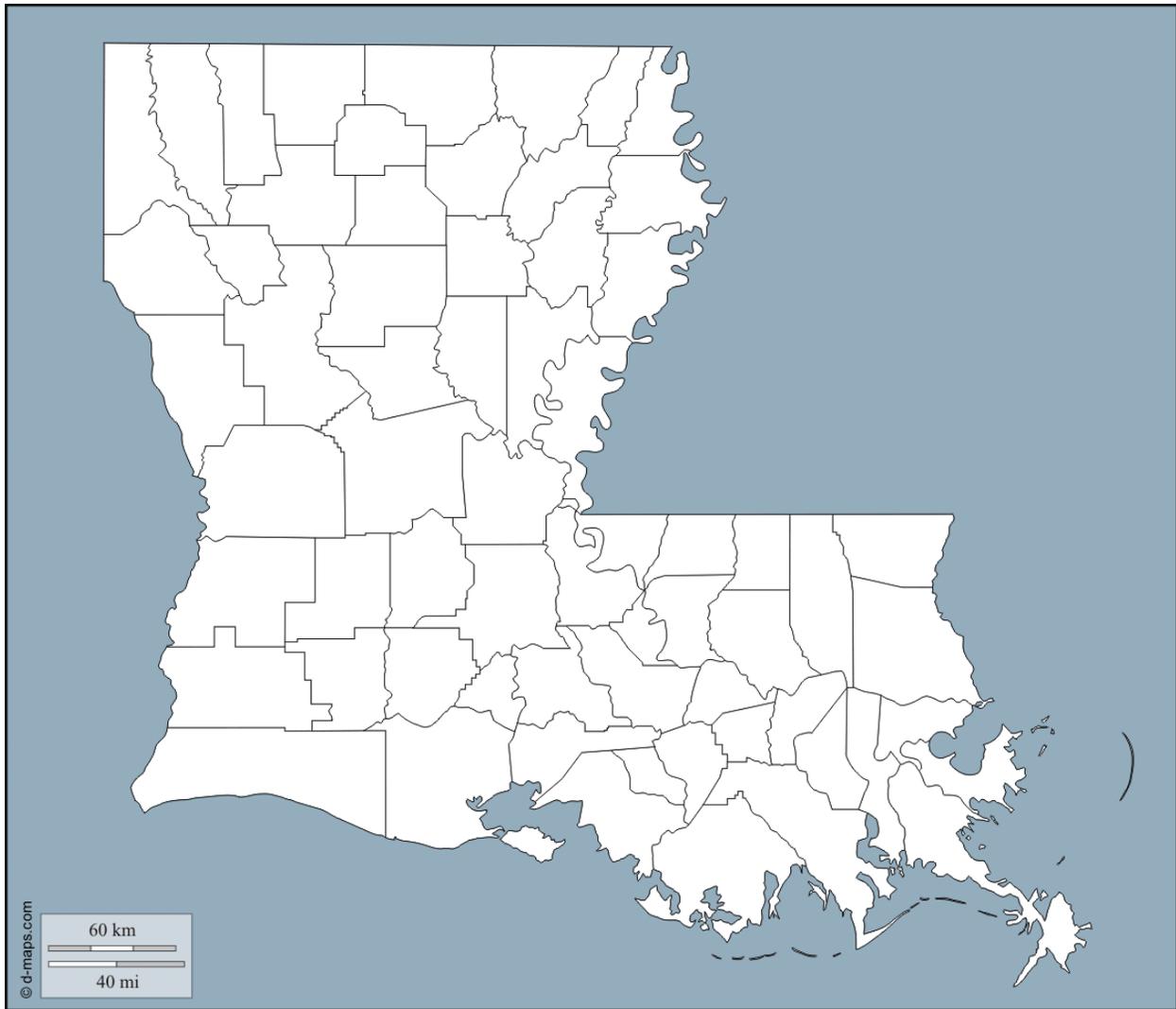
1. Using the map above and the list located below, place the letter for the ship within the proper parish for which she is named (*the county names shown also count for Louisiana*).

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) USS CADDO PARISH | h) USS LINCOLN COUNTY |
| b) USS CATAHOULA PARISH | i) USS ORLEANS PARISH |
| c) USS CLAIBORNE | j) USS RICHLAND |
| d) USS DeSOTO COUNTY | k) USS TERREBONNE PARISH |
| e) USS GRANT COUNTY | l) USS VERMILION |
| f) USS JEFFERSON COUNTY | m) USS VERNON COUNTY |
| g) USS LAFAYETTE COUNTY | |



2. Using the map above and the list located below, place the letter for the ship on the proper river, lake, bay, or sound for which she is named.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) USS BARATARIA | j) USS PEARL RIVER |
| b) CSS BERWICK BAY | k) USS PONCHATOULA |
| c) USS BRETON | l) USCGC PONTCHARTRAIN
and CSS PONTCHARTAIN |
| d) USS CHANDELEUR
and USCGC CHANDELEUR | m) USS RED RIVER |
| e) USS LAKE ARTHUR | n) USS SABINE |
| f) USS LAKE BORGNE | o) USS TCHIFONTA |
| g) CSS MAUREPAS | p) USS TENSAS |
| h) USS MISSISSIPPI (1841-1863) | q) USS TIMBALIER |
| i) USS OUACHITA
and USCGC OUACHITA | r) USS VERMILLION
and USS VERMILLION BAY |

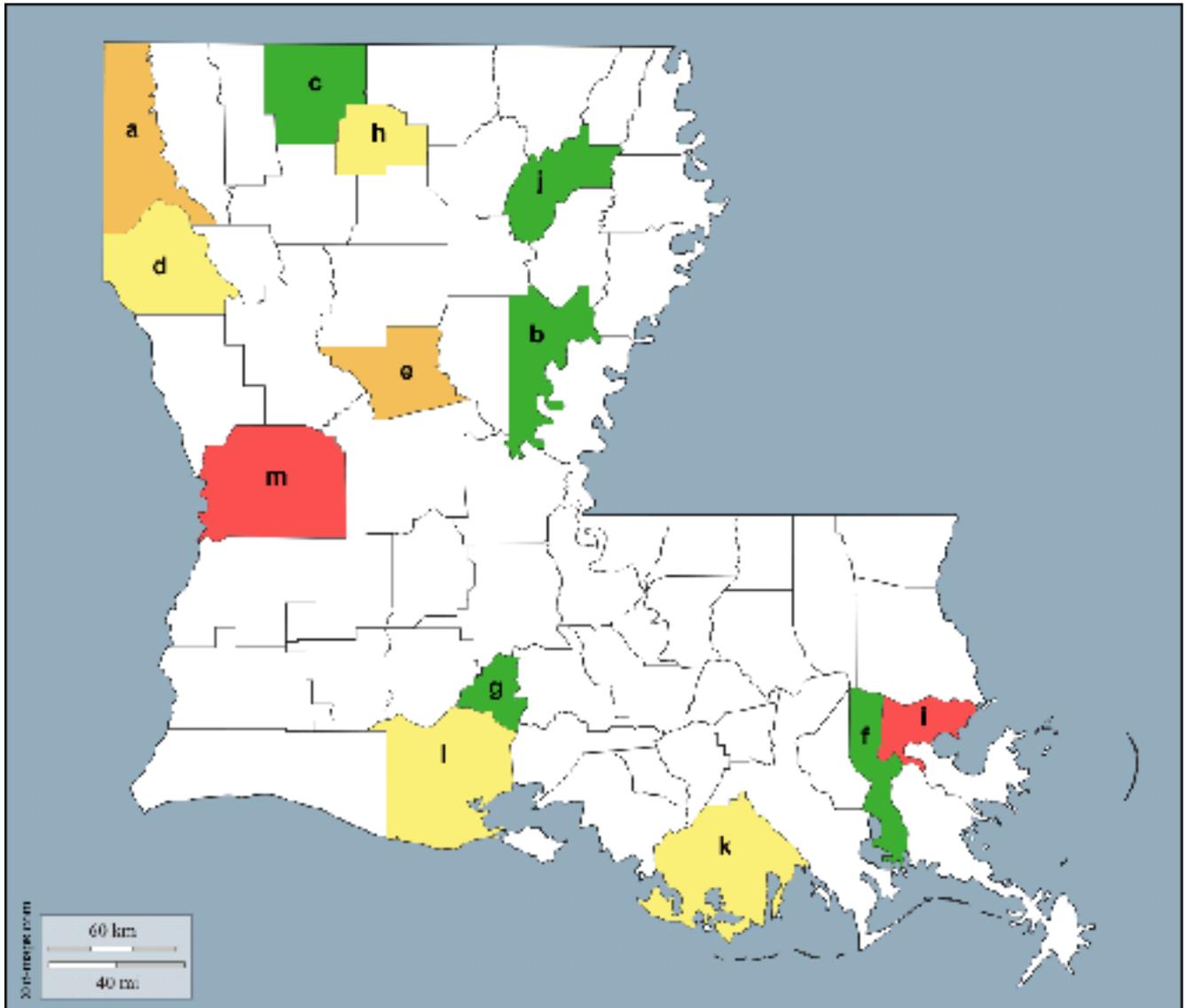


3. Using the map above and the list located below, place the letter for the ship in the proper location of the city or town whose name she carried.

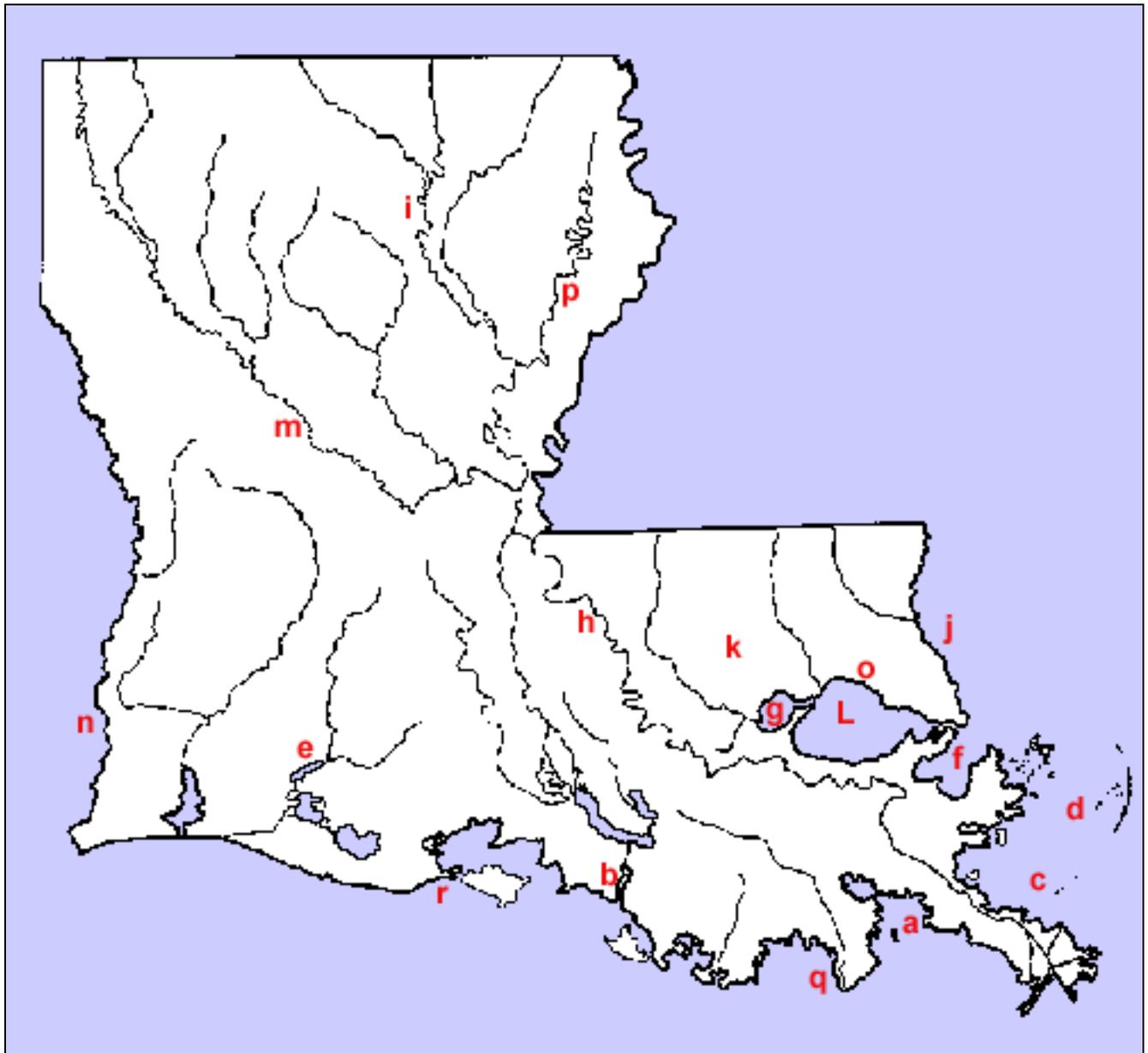
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a) SS LAKE CHARLES VICTORY | h) SS MONROE VICTORY |
| b) USS ALEXANDRIA | i) USS NATCHITOCHE (named for tribe) |
| c) USS BATON ROUGE | j) USS NEW ORLEANS |
| and SS BATON ROUGE VICTORY | and CSS NEW ORLEANS |
| d) USS BOGALUSA (named for tribe) | k) USS OBERLIN |
| e) SS GRETNA VICTORY | l) USS SHREVEPORT |
| f) USS HOUMA (named for tribe) | m) CSS SLIDELL |
| g) USS MINDEN | |

Teacher's Answer Key

1. Using the map above and the list located below, place the letter for the ship within the proper parish for which she is named (*the county names shown also count for Louisiana*).



2. Using the map above and the list located below, place the letter for the ship on the proper river, lake, bay, or sound for which she is named.



3. Using the map above and the list located below, place the letter for the ship in the proper location of the city or town whose name she carried.

