Chapter Focus

BLACK SHIPS OF EVIL MEN

Before you read look at the following terms and work in small groups to develop some working definitions. Only write down the ones that you think will be difficult to remember in your reading. Also, notice the words in the list: is there something similar about them? Why are some terms followed by ❖?

Vessel ❖ Castaways ❖ Moored ❖
Command
Squadron ❖
Invade
Provisions
Lubricating
Violent

Group Discussion

Use these questions as a starting point in your working groups and listen carefully to the ideas and opinions of others.

How might the Japanese have reacted differently? Do you think that Perry had a “right” to complete his mission? What do you think about the reasons for the American mission? Can you think of a similar situation today?

Extra! Extra!

Imagine you are living in either 1850s Japan or America. After you have read the chapter, create a brief newspaper article that outlines the events described in the book. Put yourself in the perspective of either a Japanese or American at the time. How might they have reported on events differently? Describe the scene and include at least one interview with a local resident or witness. Obviously, you will have to be creative! And make sure you come up with a good headline that catches your reader’s attention! Below are some images you might refer to in your descriptions. Try and really put yourself in the other person’s shoes!

After you have read the chapter consider the following questions-

How would you characterize Perry’s behavior at the beginning? What were the reasons for Perry’s attitude? How might have Perry acted differently? How might the outcome have been different?