

Name _____ Date _____

Fireboats of New York

Have you ever seen a fireboat? What are fireboats, anyway, and what do they do?	13 15
Many years ago, as New York City was growing, problems were growing, too. Many goods were shipped out of New York. Many goods were shipped into New York. The ships, docks, and warehouses along the harbor had to be protected from fire. The fire department had to find a way to fight fires there. Their engines were useful only on land.	27 40 53 68 76
What could they do? They decided to use fireboats! The very first fireboat used by the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) was a tugboat rented in 1865 called the <i>John Fuller</i> . It could pump 2,000 gallons of water each minute! It took the water directly from the river.	88 102 116 128
The first real fireboat in New York City was the <i>William F. Havemeyer</i> . The ship entered service in 1875. It had a wooden hull and could pump 3,000 gallons of water each minute. The <i>Havemeyer</i> served New York City until 1901. By that time, people had learned that fireboats with wooden hulls were not such a good idea. Can you guess why? The boats could catch on fire, too! They began making fireboats from steel.	141 156 168 181 197 203
On land, it might take many fire engines to put out a fire. On the water, it usually takes just one fireboat. Fireboats have amazing power! One fireboat can pump about as much water as twenty fire engines!	220 231 241
Fireboats help fight fires on the many waterways of New York. These firefighters save people from burning ships, docks, and warehouses. They save millions of dollars worth of goods, too. They are a very important part of the Fire Department of New York City.	253 263 277 285

