STUDENT HANDOUT

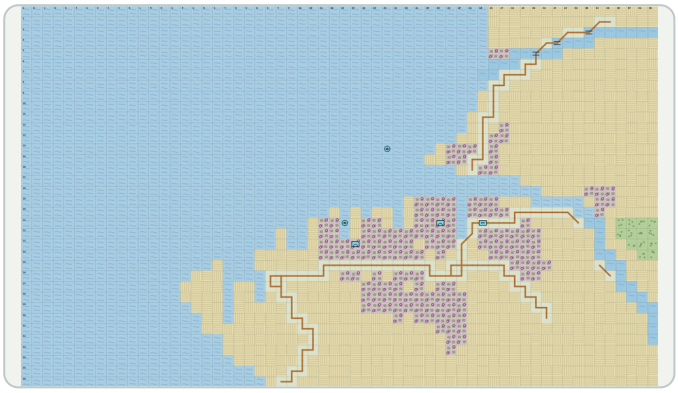
Sevastopol: Drones at Sea

Sevastopol, Russian occupied Crimea, Ukraine · 29 October 2022

Information as of October 2026



Scenario illustration · AI generated



Student map · own side only · Simulation situation map · reconstructed terrain and estimated deployments; not verified historical positions.

Learning objectives

- Locate the separate harbour inlets and distinguish sea from aerial drones.
- Compare the damage Russia acknowledged with later Ukrainian claims.
- Distinguish a limited damage objective from sinking a vessel.

Run time and a good result

Default run clock: 3 minutes 0 seconds at 1×, excluding pauses, briefing and discussion. Time controls change elapsed play time.

Objective: Keep both represented warships in action until time expires. You command the air defence response.

Sevastopol: Drones at Sea: Keep both represented warships in action until time expires. You command the air defence response. Preserve at least 2 represented warships until the attack ends. The authored limit is 180 simulation seconds across 1 stage. Compare objective progress, time, losses, drone expenditure and recorded civilian harm with a second run. A strong classroom result also explains the source evidence and reconstruction estimates; it does not verify a historical casualty count.

Atrocity notice

The UN Commission found war crimes by Russian authorities, including killings, torture and sexual violence, and a small number of violations by Ukrainian forces. Its March 2023 findings are context, including for later scenarios.

These reports describe the wider conflict. They do not establish that every crime occurred in this modeled battle.

> Studying or commanding a side does not endorse its conduct. Drone Front never lets players target civilians, hospitals, schools or places of worship. Civilian harm from simulated strikes is counted and shown in the debrief, including nonzero harm. Civilian massacres are never playable operations. Designated terrorist forces and Wagner remain computer controlled; Gaza war events remain excluded from play.
>
> ▼ Dated reports and findings
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> - 2023-03-16 · UN Commission of Inquiry: war crimes in Ukraine
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> Learn more: the laws of war
>
> - ICRC: Geneva Conventions and commentaries
> - ICRC: Customary IHL database
> - UN: Genocide Convention (9 December 1948)
> - UN: Rome Statute (17 July 1998), articles 6–8

Historical source notes

The raid used both sea and aerial drones. These were distinct systems within one historical event.

A damaged vessel and a sunk vessel are different outcomes. Russia acknowledged minesweeper damage; other reported damage remained disputed.

The ferry closure affected civilians even though the immediate targets were military ships.

Civilian harm

Radio Svoboda reported that ferries between the northern and southern parts of Sevastopol stopped for several hours after the explosions. Services later resumed.

Evidence for learning objectives

The War Zone identified a frigate in footage but could not independently confirm Admiral Makarov damage.

The authored protect objective requires two ship counters; an out-of-action counter represents engagement damage, not a documented sinking.

Radio Svoboda reports a ferry interruption and resumption; its July injury reference concerns a separate attack.

Timings

For 60 minutes, brief for 15, run with pauses for 25 and review for 20. For 90 minutes, repeat from the other side. For 180 minutes, compare the reporting and physical map.

Session	Plan
45 minutes	Brief: 10 min; Run: 15 min; Collect: 5 min; Review: 15 min
60 minutes	Before questions: 5 min; Brief: 10 min; Run: 20 min; Collect: 5 min; Debrief and after questions: 15 min; Discussion: 5 min
90 minutes	Before questions: 5 min; Brief: 10 min; Run 1: with drones: 20 min; Run 2: without drones: 15 min; Collect: 5 min; Compare and discuss: 25 min; After questions: 10 min

Session	Plan
180 minutes	Before questions: 10 min; Brief and staff roles: 15 min; Run 1: with drones: 25 min; Run 2: without drones: 20 min; Break: 10 min; Run 3: syndicates: 30 min; Collect: 10 min; Seminar replay and debrief: 40 min; After questions: 10 min; Close: 10 min

Staff roles

commander
Track the limited objective.

intelligence
Distinguish observed footage from official claims.

fires
Record simulated effects and civilian exposure.

droneOps
Separate sea and aerial flights in the record.

Opposing staff objective

Put one represented warship out of action for the engagement. This is a limited damage objective, not a claim that a ship sank.

Decision points

- Opening: which reported drone counts are attributed to Russia?
- During the run: what does a counter going out of action represent?
- Review: which parts of the historical outcome remain disputed?

Before and after questions

1. **How should the reported seven sea drones and nine aerial drones be described?**

   A. As Russian Ministry of Defence counts reported by The War Zone.
   B. As independently verified totals established from every attack video.
   C. As Ukrainian inventory figures covering the full Black Sea campaign.
   D. As the number of distinct drone models identified in harbour footage.

2. **What is the strongest supported reading of the frigate footage in the contemporary report?**

   A. It establishes the frigate's sinking during the October engagement.
   B. It shows a frigate, while its reported damage remains unconfirmed.
   C. It verifies that only the harbour barrier suffered any raid damage.
   D. It resolves all disagreement over the minesweeper and frigate losses.

3. **A ship counter goes out of action in this scenario. What does that result mean?**

   A. A verified sinking has been reproduced for the historical record.
   B. The entire Black Sea Fleet has lost its remaining combat capability.
   C. Engagement damage has removed that represented ship from the run.
   D. The harbour has changed territorial control for the wider campaign.

4. **Why must Sea Baby and UJ-22 card labels be read cautiously in the 2022 lesson?**

   A. They identify the precise sea and aerial models verified in every report.
   B. They turn the selected ship sectors into verified historical berths.
   C. They establish that both systems were aerial vehicles during the raid.
   D. They are model substitutes for earlier sea and unidentified aerial drones.

5. **What civilian consequence does the 29 October ferry report establish?**

   A. A temporary ferry interruption, without a casualty total for this raid.
   B. A permanent ferry closure covering the rest of the Black Sea campaign.
   C. Six raid injuries, by transferring the report's separate July reference.
   D. No civilian disruption, because the immediate targets were warships.

Discussion

- Why is the later Sea Baby card standing in for an earlier sea vehicle?
- Why should a map omit a casualty total when its sources do not establish one?
- How does a shore defence role differ from commanding an attacking drone force?

Debrief rubric

Strong
Meets the objective or explains why it was not met; uses the published sources and run evidence, separates known facts from assumptions, compares both sides' losses and cost exchange, and evaluates precautions against civilian harm.

Adequate
Describes the objective and main decisions, identifies at least one source and model limitation, reports losses and harm, and gives a reasoned change for a second run.

Weak
Reports only victory or points, treats teaching settings as real performance, gives unsupported historical claims, or omits uncertainty and civilian harm.

Published readings

1. The War Zone, Payne, Altman and Rogoway: Sevastopol drone boat attack, 29 October 2022

2. Naval News, Tayfun Ozberk: Analysis of the Sevastopol attack, 30 October 2022
3. Ukrainska Pravda, Roman Romaniuk: The Black Sea drone campaign, 1 January 2024

Complete source list

Wikipedia: 2022 drone attack on the Sevastopol Naval Base, accessed 4 October 2026
The War Zone, Payne, Altman and Rogoway: Sevastopol drone boat attack, 29 October 2022
Naval News, Tayfun Ozberk: Analysis of the Sevastopol attack, 30 October 2022
Ukrainska Pravda, Roman Romaniuk: The Black Sea drone campaign, 1 January 2024
Radio Svoboda: Sevastopol ferry service closed after explosions, 29 October 2022
Reuters, Guy Faulconbridge and Sachin Ravikumar: Russian claims and British denial, 29 October 2022