

# Vietnam War - Webquest

**Directions:** Complete the following questions using the link listed below.

<http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/vietnam-war-history>



1. What was the timeframe of the Vietnam War?
2. During World War II, \_\_\_\_\_ invaded and occupied Vietnam, a nation on the eastern edge of the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia that had been under \_\_\_\_\_ administration since the late 19th century.
3. Who was Ho Chi Minh and what did he do?



9. What was "Operation Rolling Thunder"?

10. In March 1965, \_\_\_\_\_ made the decision—with solid support from the American public—to send U.S. combat forces into battle in Vietnam. By June, \_\_\_\_\_ combat troops were stationed in Vietnam, and General William Westmoreland was calling for \_\_\_\_\_ more by the end of 1965 to shore up the struggling South Vietnamese army.

11. What is meant by a strategy of "attrition"?

12. How were the Viet Cong able to resupply and strengthen their air defenses?

13. By November 1967, the number of American troops in Vietnam was approaching \_\_\_\_\_, and U.S. casualties had reached \_\_\_\_\_ killed and \_\_\_\_\_ wounded.

14. Explain the issues that American government began to face within its own armed forces and on the home front as the Vietnam War dragged on.

15. What was the Tet Offensive?

16. Following the Tet Offensive, what did President Johnson argue in favor of?

17. Explain President Nixon's term "Vietnamization".

18. The website states that the anti-war protests related to the Vietnam War divided the USA bitterly. What evidence does the website provide to show this bitter divide?

19. When and where was the largest American anti-war protest?

20. What is meant by "draft-dodging"? Why was this a problem for the United States?

21. What was the incident at Kent State? Why is this event significant?

22. When and how did the United States leave the conflict in Vietnam?

23. How did the Vietnam War affect the Vietnamese?

24. In the United States, the effects of the Vietnam War would linger long after the last troops returned home in 1973. The nation spent more than \_\_\_\_\_ billion on the conflict in Vietnam from 1965-73.

25. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled in Washington, D.C. On it were inscribed the names of \_\_\_\_\_ American armed forces killed or missing during the war; later additions brought that total to \_\_\_\_\_.

Teachers Key

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What was the timeframe of the Vietnam War?

1956-1975

2. During World War II, Japan invaded and occupied Vietnam, a nation on the eastern edge of the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia that had been under French administration since the late 19th century.

3. Who was Ho Chi Minh and what did he do?

Inspired by Chinese and Soviet communism, Ho Chi Minh formed the Viet Minh, or the League for the Independence of Vietnam, to fight both Japan and the French colonial administration. Ho's Viet Minh forces rose up immediately, seizing the northern city of Hanoi and declaring a Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) with Ho as president.

4. Explain the division of Vietnam between the northern half and southern half. Why did this happen? What were the major events?

Seeking to regain control of the region, France backed Bao and set up the state of Vietnam (South Vietnam) in July 1949, with Saigon as its capital. Armed conflict continued until a decisive battle at Dien Bien Phu in May 1954 ended in French defeat by Viet Minh forces. The subsequent treaty negotiations at Geneva split Vietnam along the latitude known as the 17th parallel (with Ho in control in the North and Bao in the South).

5. In what ways was the United States' involvement in the Vietnam conflict an extension of its overall Cold War policies?

The USA viewed its involvement in Vietnam similar to its involvement in Korea, in that it was hoping to stop the spread of communism. The conflict would prove to symbolize the greater divide/conflict between the east and west or the Soviet Union and the USA.

6. What was the "domino theory" and how did it apply to the American involvement in Vietnam?

The "domino theory," was the idea that if one Southeast Asian country fell to communism, many would follow. The United States would use the "domino theory" to justify its involvement in Vietnam.

7. By 1962, the U.S. military presence in South Vietnam had reached some 9,000 troops, compared with fewer than 800 during the 1950s.

8. What happened in the Gulf of Tonkin and how did it impact USA involvement in Vietnam?

In August 1964, torpedo boats attacked two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin, Johnson ordered the retaliatory bombing of military targets in North Vietnam. Congress soon passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which gave Johnson broad war-making powers.

9. What was "Operation Rolling Thunder"?

American bombing raids against the communist North Vietnamese.

10. In March 1965, President Johnson made the decision—with solid support from the American public—to send U.S. combat forces into battle in Vietnam. By June, 82,000 combat troops were stationed in Vietnam, and General William Westmoreland was calling for 175,000 more by the end of 1965 to shore up the struggling South Vietnamese army.

11. What is meant by a strategy of "attrition"?

A policy of attrition, involves aiming to kill as many enemy troops as possible rather than trying to secure territory.

12. How were the Viet Cong able to resupply and strengthen their air defenses?

Supported by aid from China and the Soviet Union, North Vietnam strengthened its air defenses.

13. By November 1967, the number of American troops in Vietnam was approaching 500,000, and U.S. casualties had reached 15,058 killed and 109,527 wounded.

14. Explain the issues that American government began to face within its own armed forces and on the home front as the Vietnam War dragged on.

As the war stretched on, some soldiers came to mistrust their government's reasons for keeping them there, as well as Washington's claims that the war was being won. Bombarded by horrific images of the war on their televisions, Americans on the home front turned against the war as well: In October 1967, some 35,000 demonstrators staged a mass antiwar protest outside the Pentagon. Opponents of the war argued that civilians, not enemy combatants, were the primary victims and that the United States was supporting a corrupt dictatorship in Saigon.

15. What was the Tet Offensive?

On January 31, 1968, some 70,000 DRV forces under General Vo Nguyen Giap launched the Tet offensive (named for the lunar new year), a coordinated series of fierce attacks on more than 100 cities and towns in South Vietnam.

16. Following the Tet Offensive, what did President Johnson argue in favor of?

Johnson called a halt to bombing in much of North Vietnam in March promised to dedicate the rest of his term to seeking peace rather than re-election.

17. Explain President Nixon's term "Vietnamization".

In an attempt to limit the volume of American casualties, Nixon announced a program of withdrawing troops, increasing aerial and artillery bombardment and giving South Vietnamese control over ground operations. He referred to this as "Vietnamization".

18. The website states that the anti-war protests related to the Vietnam War divided the USA bitterly. What evidence does the website provide to show this bitter divide?

The anti-war movement, which was particularly strong on college campuses, divided Americans bitterly. For some young people, the war symbolized a form of unchecked authority they had come to resent. For other Americans, opposing the government was considered unpatriotic and treasonous.

19. When and where was the largest American anti-war protest?

On November 15, 1969, the largest anti-war protest in American history took place in Washington, D.C., as over 250,000 Americans gathered peacefully, calling for withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam.

20. What is meant by "draft-dodging"? Why was this a problem for the United States?

Soldiers who evaded joining the army by fleeing to Canada. This was a problem for the USA because it showed the growing divide in American culture and the lowering morale among soldiers over the war effort in Vietnam.

21. What was the incident at Kent State? Why is this event significant?

The Kent State shootings involved college protesters being shot to death by US National Guardsmen. It was significant because it showed the growing violent nature of the protests growing in the USA and marked a point where the armed forces were turning against protesters.

22. When and how did the United States leave the conflict in Vietnam?

In January 1973, the United States and North Korea concluded a final peace agreement, ending open hostilities between the two nations.

23. How did the Vietnam War affect the Vietnamese?

The long conflict had affected an immense majority of the country's population; in eight years of warfare, an estimated 2 million Vietnamese died, while 3 million were wounded and another 12 million became refugees. War had decimated the country's infrastructure and economy, and reconstruction proceeded slowly.

24. In the United States, the effects of the Vietnam War would linger long after the last troops returned home in 1973. The nation spent more than \$120 billion on the conflict in Vietnam from 1965-73.

25. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled in Washington, D.C. On it were inscribed the names of 57,939 American armed forces killed or missing during the war; later additions brought that total to 58,200.