# Unit Organizer: The Vietnam War Years

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| The Big Picture: In 1965, America's fight against communism has spread to Southeast Asia, where the United States is becoming increasingly involved in another country's civil war. Unable to claim victory, U.S. generals call for an increase in the number of combat troops. Facing a shortage of volunteers, the president expands the draft. | | | | | |
| Last Unit: The Civil Rights Movement  (1954-1968) | Current Unit: **The Vietnam War Years**  **(1961-1976)** | | Next Unit: Nixon, Carter & Ford  (1968-1980) | | |
| **Assessments** : | | **Key Terms and Phrases:** | | | |
| 1. Vocabulary 2. Sequence and Chronology 3. Political Cartoon Analysis 4. Primary Sources 5. Graphs/Charts Analysis 6. Maps/Photos Analysis 7. CER Writing 8. Unit Summative Assessments |  | 1. HO CHI MINH 2. VIETMINH 3. VIETCONG 4. DOMINO THEORY 5. TONKIN GULF RESOLUTION 6. HANOI 7. SAIGON 8. HO CHI MINH TRAIL 9. GENERAL WESTMORELAND 10. ARVN 11. WAR OF ATTRITION 12. NAPALM 13. AGENT ORANGE 14. TET OFFENSIVE 15. DRAFT 16. TEACH-INS 17. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR 18. COLLEGE DEFERMENT 19. NEW LEFT | | 1. SDS 2. FSM 3. DOVES 4. HAWKS 5. WALTER CRONKITE 6. ROBERT KENNEDY 7. HUBERT HUMPHREY 8. RICHARD NIXON 9. GEORGE WALLACE 10. HENRY KISSINGER 11. GERALD FORD 12. POL POT 13. KHMER ROUGE 14. MY LAI 15. KENT STATE 16. VIETNAMIZATION 17. SILENT MAJORITY 18. PENTAGON PAPERS/DANIEL ELLSBERG 19. WAR POWERS ACT | |
| **Essentials Questions:**   1. Should the U.S. have gone to war in Vietnam? 2. Was the war in Vietnam a “good” war? 3. Did the American public support the war in Vietnam? Did their feelings change over time? 4. Were young people supportive of the war in Vietnam War? 5. Was it possible for the United States to have “won” the Vietnam War? 6. Was the Vietnam War a defining event for an entire generation of Americans? | | | | | **Pages:**  **728-765** |

**USHG ERA 8 – POST-WORLD WAR II UNITED STATES (1945 -1989)**

**8.1 Cold War and the United States-***I can identify, analyze, and explain the causes, conditions, and impact of the Cold War Era on the United States.*

**8.1.2 Foreign Policy during the Cold Wa**r – I can compare the causes and consequences of the setbacks and successes of the American policy of ‘containing’ the Soviet Union.

**8.2 Domestic Policies**

I can examine, analyze, and explain demographic changes, domestic policies, conflicts, and tensions in Post- WWII America.

**8.2.1 Demographic Changes** – I can use population data to produce and analyze maps that show the major changes in population distribution, spatial patterns and density, including the Baby Boom, new immigration, suburbanization, reverse migration of African Americans to the South, and the flow of population to the “Sunbelt.”

**8.2.2 Policy Concerning Domestic Issues** – I can analyze major domestic issues in the Post-World War II era and the policies designed to meet the challenges

**8.2.4 Domestic Conflicts and Tensions** – Using core democratic values, I can analyze and evaluate the competing perspectives and controversies among Americans generated by U.S. Supreme Court decisions (e.g., Roe v Wade, Gideon, Miranda, Tinker, Hazelwood), the Vietnam War (anti-war and counter-cultural movements), environmental movement, women’s rights movement, and the constitutional crisis generated by the Watergate scandal.

***Unit Reading Guide: The Vietnam War Years***

**SECTION 1 GUIDED READING: MOVING TOWARD CONFLICT**

1. WHY WAS THE VIETNAM WAR FOUGHT?

-HOW MANY AMERICANS DIED IN THE WAR?

2. WHAT COUNTRIES MAKE-UP INDOCHINA?

-WHAT COUNTRY RULED INDOCHINA UNTIL THE END OF WWII?

3. WHO WAS HO CHI MINH?

4. WHAT WAS THE GOAL OF THE VIETMINH?

5. WHY DID THE U. S. SUPPORT FRANCE AGAINST THE

VIETMINH?

6. EXPLAIN EISENHOWER’S DOMINO THEORY.

7. EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DIEN BIEN PHU.

8. DESCRIBE HOW THE GENEVA ACCORDS TEMPORARILY

PROVIDED PEACE IN VIETNAM.

9. WHY WERE THE CITIES OF HANOI & SAIGON IMPORTANT?

10. WHO WERE THE VIETCONG?

11. WHY WAS THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL IMPORTANT?

12. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE GULF OF TONKIN IN

AUGUST 1964.

13. WHAT DID THE TONKIN GULF RESOLUTION DO?

14. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE STEPS TAKEN BY PRESIDENT

JOHNSON THAT ESCALATED THE VIETNAM WAR.

**SECTION 2 GUIDED READING: U. S. INVOLVEMENT & ESCALATION**

1. WHO DID THE U. S. SUPPORT IN THE VIETNAM WAR?

2. DESCRIBE HOW PRESIDENT JOHNSON BROKE HIS 1964 CAMPAIGN

PLEDGE.

1. WHY DID LBJ DECIDE TO ESCALATE U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN

VIETNAM?

1. HOW MANY TROOPS DID THE U. S. HAVE IN VIETNAM BY

1965?

5. WHO WAS THE AMERICAN COMMANDER IN VIETNAM?

6. WHY DID THE U. S. BELIEVE IT WOULD DEFEAT THE

VIETCONG?

1. WHAT 2 FACTORS FRUSTRATED AMERICAN SOLDIERS

DURING THE VIETNAM WAR?

-WHAT SIMILARITIES EXIST BETWEEN THE VIETNAM WAR &

THE WAR IN IRAQ?

1. HOW WERE THE VIETCONG ABLE TO ELUDE U. S.

AIRSTRIKES?

1. DESCRIBE GENERAL WESTMORELAND’S PLAN TO DEFEAT

THE VIETCONG.

10. WHAT COUNTRIES WERE SUPPLYING THE VIETCONG?

-WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?

11. DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE & EFFECT OF NAPALM & AGENT

ORANGE.

12. DESCRIBE WHAT SEARCH-AND-DESTROY MISSIONS WERE.

13. WHAT 3 FACTORS CAUSED U. S. SOLDIERS’ MORALE TO

SINK?

14. DESCRIBE THE EFFECT THAT LOW MORALE HAD ON THE U. S.

MILITARY.

15. WHY WAS THE VIETNAM WAR DESCRIBED AS A “LIVING

ROOM WAR”?

16. HOW WAS TELEVISION CREATING A CREDIBILITY GAP

REGARDING THE WAR?

**SECTION 3 GUIDED READING: A NATION DIVIDED**

1. WHY WOULD SOMEONE BE GRANTED 1-A-O STATUS?

2. WHY DID MANY AMERICANS RESIST FIGHTING IN THE VIETNAM

WAR?

3. DESCRIBE HOW THE DRAFT WORKED.

4. DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT MEN TRIED TO AVOID

THE DRAFT.

5. WHY WAS THE VIETNAM WAR CONSIDERED “A WORKING CLASS

WAR”?

6. WHY DID MLK FINALLY SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE WAR IN

VIETNAM?

7. LIST & DESCRIBE THE OPPOSITION GROUPS THAT SURFACED

DURING THE 1960s.

8. WHAT WERE “TEACH-INS”?

9. LIST THE 4 REASONS WHY MANY AMERICAN YOUTHS OPPOSED

THE WAR IN VIETNAM?

10. WHAT ROLE DID MUSIC PLAY IN THE PROTEST MOVEMENT?

11. WHAT HAPPENED TO MANY DRAFT RESISTERS?

12. EXPLAIN THE MEANING BEHIND “DOVES” & “HAWKS”.

**SECTION 4 GUIDED READING: 1968: A TUMULTUOUS YEAR**

1. WHAT 2 AMERICANS WERE ASSASSINATED IN 1968?

2. DESCRIBE HOW THE TET OFFENSIVE WAS CARRIED OUT.

3. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE MAIN ROUTE USED BY THE

NORTH VIETNAMESE?

4. WHY DID EACH SIDE SEE THE TET OFFENSIVE AS A VICTORY?

5. WHAT DID LBJ ANNOUNCE IN MARCH 1968 THAT SHOCKED

THE NATION?

-WHOSE SUPPORT DID LBJ LOSE THAT CONVINCED HIM TO DO

THIS?

6. WHEN WAS MLK ASSASSINATED?

-WHAT HAPPENED IN MANY CITIES AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION?

7. WHO WAS ASSASSINATED ON JUNE 5, 1968?

-WHO SHOT HIM? WHY?

8. WHAT WERE THE REASONS PROTESTERS DEMONSTRATED AT

THE 1968 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION?

1. WHO WAS THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN

1968?

-WHAT WERE HIS 2 CAMPAIGN PROMISES?

10. WHO WAS GEORGE WALLACE?

-HOW DID HE HELP NIXON’S CAMPAIGN?

11. WHO WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1968?

**SECTION 5 GUIDED READING: THE END OF THE WAR & ITS LEGACY**

1. WHY DOES A SOLDIER RECEIVE THE PURPLE HEART?

2. WHO BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1969?

3. WHAT ROLE DID KISSINGER PLAY IN ENDING THE VIETNAM WAR?

-WHAT WAS VIETNAMIZATION?

4. DESCRIBE NIXON’S “PEACE WITH HONOR” PLAN.

5. WHY DID NIXON BOMB THE COUNTRIES OF LAOS & CAMBODIA?

6. WHO WAS THE “SILENT MAJORITY”?

7. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AT MY LAI.

-WHAT WAS THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE MY LAI INCIDENT?

8. WHY DID OVER A MILLION COLLEGE STUDENTS BEGIN PROTESTING IN 1970?

9. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AT KENT STATE ON MAY 4, 1970.

10. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PENTAGON PAPERS?

11. WHO WON THE 1972 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

12. IN WHAT YEAR DID U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR END?

13. WHO BECAME PRESIDENT WHEN NIXON WAS FORCED TO RESIGN?

14. WHO EVENTUALLY WON THE VIETNAMESE CIVIL WAR?

15. HOW MANY AMERICANS WERE KILLED IN VIETNAM?

16. DESCRIBE THE TREATMENT RECEIVED BY VIETNAM WAR VETERANS.

17. EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED IN VIETNAM AFTER THE COMMUNISTS TOOK OVER.

18. WHO WERE THE “BOAT PEOPLE”?

- WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AT THE END OF THE WAR?

19. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED IN CAMBODIA IN 1975.

20. SUMMARIZE THE LEGACY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

-WHAT WAS THE WAR POWERS ACT?