

## Student Handout: Lesson Six Part A – Vietnam War

### Preview:



\*Wikipedia

This image is a cartoon of the domino theory. Based on what you have learned so far about the Cold War, what do you think are the labels of the missing countries?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity Notes:

When the United States supported the French in South Vietnam to fight the communists in North Vietnam, the people of the United States agreed because they wanted to stop communism. Most people thought communism was a threat to the United States. Many people were afraid there were communist spies in the United States and the government. They thought these communist spies would start a nuclear war or take over the government.

The Vietnam War had an impact on the people of the United States. With a partner or small group, you will visit each placard station. Complete the observations of the images or sources found and then work to match up source to the text information found in this handout.

Placard Letter	List 3-4 things that you see in the picture, story, or graph.	Conclusion: Write a hashtag giving the main topic of the images, stories, or graphs in the station.	Text to Match
<b>A</b>			<p>In the 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy from Wisconsin was put in charge of the Committee on Government Operations. He began a search across the United States for people who were communists. He made each suspect come to Washington D.C. to be asked questions by a committee. The main question was, "Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist party?" He questioned hundreds of people over eight weeks. Many government employees were unfairly questioned and lost their jobs. The American people watched it on television. When Senator McCarthy began questioning soldiers who fought in WWII, the American people became angry and stopped the committee from any more questioning.</p> <p><b>(McCarthyism)</b></p>
<b>B</b>			<p>In the 1960s, the opinion of the people of the United States began to change about communism. The people still hated it but they began to think that it might not be a big threat to the United States. Many young people attending college started to disagree with their parents and teachers about many things, including the Vietnam War. They wanted a different hairstyle, a different clothes style, and a different life style, which included religion and jobs. And they were against war. These young people were called <b>Hippies</b>. Hippie or Hippy is a word related to hip, which means cool and not old-fashioned.</p>
<b>C</b>			<p>In the 1960s, the government was <b>drafting</b> 33,000 young men a month to fight in the war. More and more people became worried and concerned about how many young men in their neighborhood or church or town were going to war. Many more men began to die. By the end of the war, over 58,000 men died in the war. Many more thousands of Vietnamese men, women, and children were killed in the war.</p>

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D			<p><b>Fort McClellan</b> was an important U.S. Army training base located near Anniston, Alabama. Fort McClellan specialized in training soldiers for chemical warfare. More than 30,000 soldiers were trained for service in Vietnam at Fort McClellan. Their training included the use of the agent Napalm B, the herbicide Agent Orange, and tear gas. All three chemical weapons were used against the Vietnamese people in the war. Now, 40 years after the war, many of the United States veterans still have health issues because of the chemical weapons that were used while they served in Vietnam.</p>
E			<p>The <b>protests</b> of the American people grew and grew across the United States. In 1966, 50,000 people protested the war in New York City. In 1967, 100,000 protested in Washington, D.C. and in 1971, 300,000 protested again in that same city. Just before the war ended, many soldiers who fought in Vietnam protested the war when they got home. In 1973 the United States combat units were withdrawn from Vietnam after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords. North Vietnam won the war and North Vietnam and South Vietnam became one country again.</p>
F			<p>After the Paris Peace Accords and the American troops came home, many service men and women were missing. The US government and private citizens worked to find out what happened to these people. They were believed to have been killed in action or taken as a prisoner. Citizens of the United States often purchased bracelets with the name of a missing person. These <b>MIA (missing in action) or POW (prisoner of war)</b> bracelets were worn to pay tribute to the missing person and create awareness that he or she had not been found.</p>

**Processing:**

This was the first war the American citizen could watch on TV. In the 1960s, there was no cable TV. Instead, at 6 pm every evening, each channel would host a news program. Most Americans would watch the news of the day at 6 pm. Reporters sent films of the war to the news stations. The Americans could see the battles and the people being killed on TV every night.

Choose two of the impacts of the Vietnam War on Americans from our activity. Create a 1 minute news segment reporting on this topic as if it was during the Vietnam War. Your news segment needs to include:

\*At least one piece of information from history about this time learned during the lesson.

\*At least one picture (gathered from the internet) or poster drawn