

Vietnam War Station Lesson Plan

Thank you for purchasing this product! This is always one of my students' favorite lessons during our Cold War unit. I hope it is the same for you and your students!

Here are some general ideas, but feel free to modify any way you see fit!

- a. I give each student the worksheet double-sided and place them in groups of 3-4 and allow about 5 minutes at each station.
- b. Spread the readings and info sheets around the room so your students have room to work on each.
- c. I attach my computer to speakers and play the songs through Youtube as students work and print the list out for the music station.
- d. For the military deaths chart, students might ask about a line or bar graph. I tell them whichever they prefer, both work.
- e. I did not include an answer key because much of this is all up to the students, but if you would like to see a completed one, please contact me through the TpT store or Twitter (@StudentsHistory).

Thanks and best of luck!!!

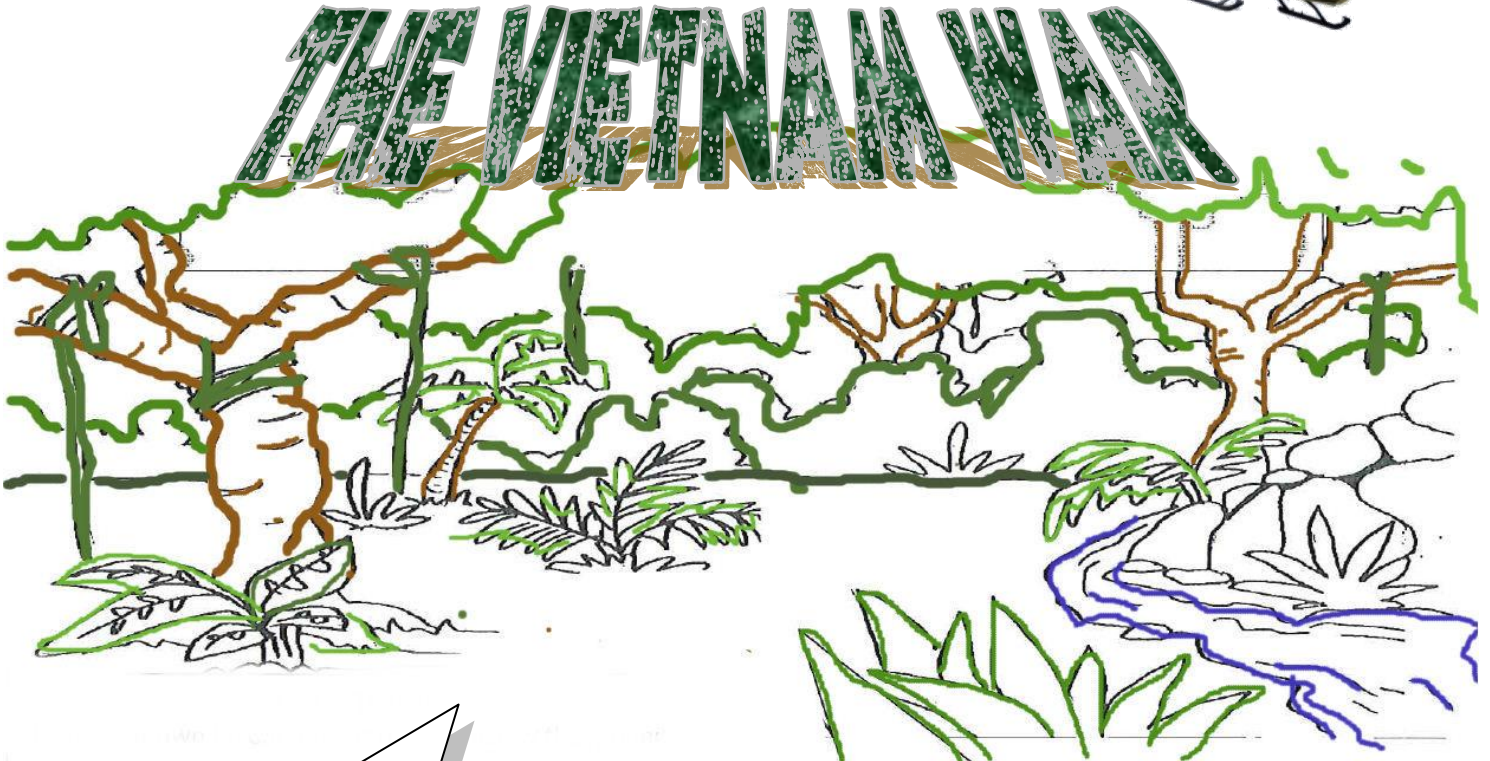
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AGENT ORANGE

Finish this drawing of a helicopter spraying Agent Orange and answer the questions:

1. What was Agent Orange?
2. Why was it used?
3. What effects did it have?



BOOBY TRAPS

Add some Vietcong traps to the drawing and describe how they worked in the space below.

The Cu Chi Tunnels

Draw your own Cu Chi Tunnel complex in the space above. Be sure to label all important rooms.

Ho Chi Minh

1. What countries did Ho Chi Minh fight against?
2. What was his political/economic philosophy?



Songs of the Vietnam War

Directions: Choose one of the songs that you have heard to complete the following questions:

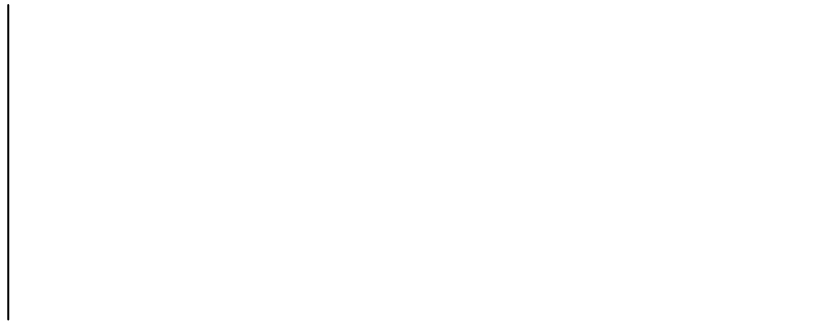
1. What is the name of the song?
2. Who is the artist or group?
3. Is the song pro or anti war?
4. Explain why you think it is pro or anti.

The Draft

1. What are the ways young men avoided the draft?
2. What do you think the US government should do to those who illegally avoid the draft?
3. What would you have done if you were drafted?

US Military Deaths in Vietnam

Use the data to create a graph of American military casualties in the war. Then use the graph to answer the questions



1. What was the worst year of the war in terms of casualties?
2. Did the war come to a sudden or gradual end? Explain why you think so.

US Military Deaths in Vietnam

Year	Deaths
1964	206
1965	1,863
1966	6,144
1967	11,153
1968	16,589
1969	11,614
1970	6,083
1971	2,357
1972	640
1973	168
1974	178
Total	58,178

The Draft During the Vietnam War

The draft was unpopular both for its impact on those drafted and as a focal point for opposition to a controversial war. Most draft exemptions were for college and graduate students. As U.S. troop strength in Vietnam increased, more and more young men were drafted for service there and more sought means of avoiding the draft. For those seeking a relatively alternative, service in the Coast Guard an option (provided one could meet the more stringent enlistment standards). Since the National Guard was slated only domestic security, service in the National Guard guaranteed protection from deploying to Vietnam. Applications for church ministry soared, as divinity students were exempt from the draft.



Doctors found themselves being pressured by relatives or family friends to exempt potential draftees on medical grounds. Physical reasons such as high blood pressure could get a man exempted. Various methods to worsen physical reasons included, in at least one case, a who went to the movies every night on the

week before the draft to eat buttered popcorn (he was still approved and drafted). In addition, antiwar psychiatrists could often find small mental conditions to be serious enough to warrant exemptions.

“Draft Dodger Rag”, a 1965 anti-war song by Phil Ochs, circumvented laws against counseling evasion by employing satire to provide a how-to list of available deferments: ruptured spleen, homosexuality, poor eyesight, flat feet, asthma, caregiver for invalid relative, college enrollment, war industry worker, spinal injuries, epilepsy, flower and bug allergies, multiple drug addictions, and lack of physical fitness.

Draft counselors, and the Selective Service System itself, emphasized that there was no such thing as an “exemption” from the draft, only a “deferment”.

Rather than submit to being drafted, tens of thousands of young men migrated to Canada, which did not support war in Vietnam. During the Vietnam War, about 100,000 draft dodgers, in total, went abroad. Those who went abroad faced imprisonment or forced military service if they returned home. The U.S. continued to prosecute draft dodgers after the end of the Vietnam War. President Jimmy Carter issued unconditional amnesty in the form of a pardon to all remaining draft evaders, as part of a general climate of “cultural reconciliation” after the end of the controversial and unpopular war.

safe
was

for

man

Agent Orange



Agent Orange is code name for a herbicide and defoliants used by the U.S. military as part of its chemical warfare program, Operation Ranch Hand, during the Vietnam War.

A herbicide or defoliant is something that burns away plants and trees, so that hidden enemy positions could be located.

During the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed nearly 20 million gallons of Agent Orange mixed with jet fuel in Vietnam, eastern Laos and parts of

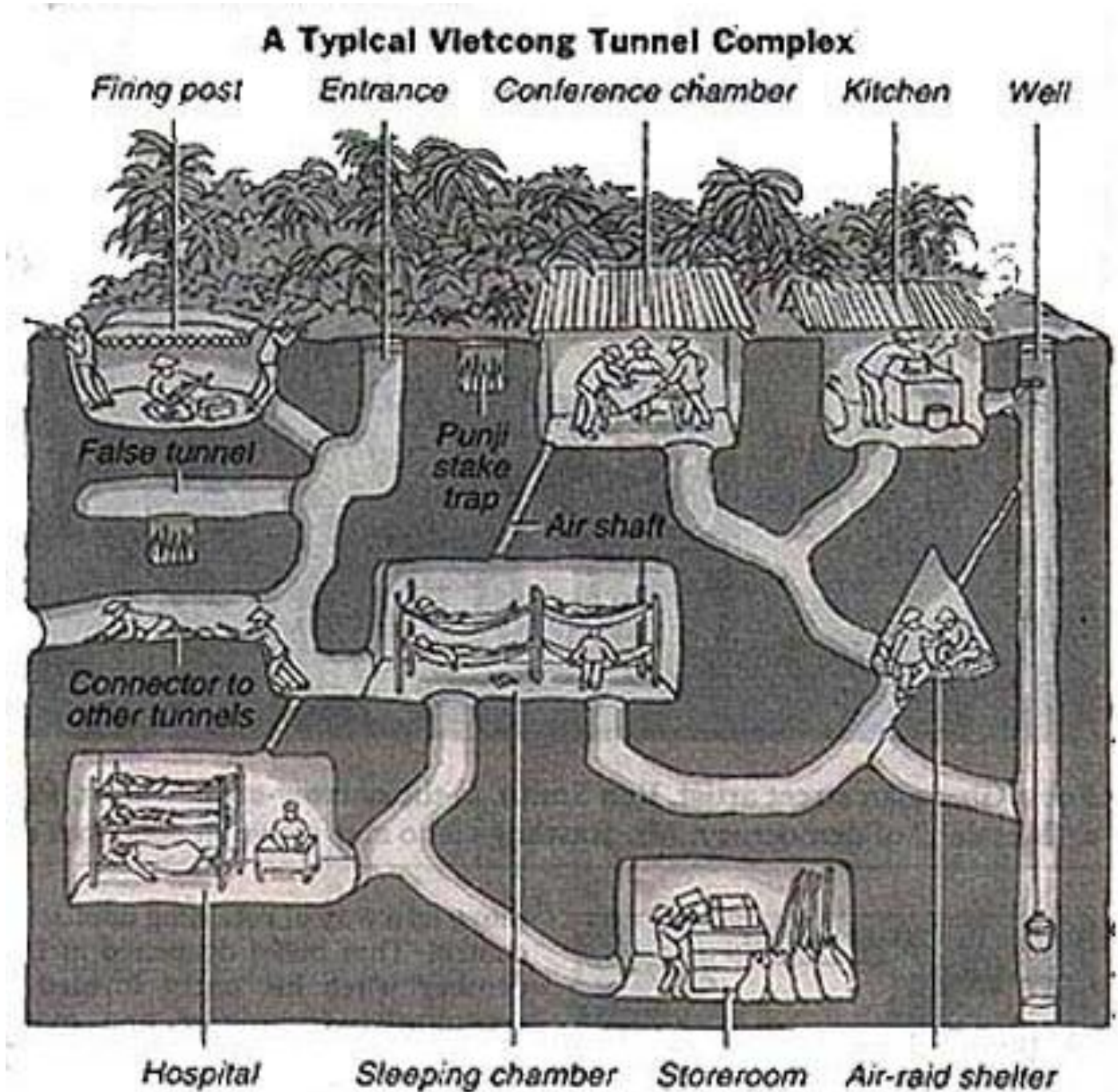
Cambodia, as part of Operation Ranch Hand. As a result, millions of Vietnamese fled the countryside to cities that were more under US control. The urban population in South Vietnam nearly tripled: from 2.8 million people in 1958, to 8 million by 1971. The rapid flow of people led to a fast-paced and uncontrolled urbanization; an estimated 1.5 million people were living in Saigon slums.

United States Air Force records show that at least 6,542 spraying missions took place over the course of Operation Ranch Hand. By 1971, 12 percent of the total area of South Vietnam had been sprayed with defoliating chemicals. Vietnam estimates that more than 400,000 people were killed by the spraying of Agent Orange. Additionally, more than 500,000 children were born with horrific birth defects as a result of their parents being exposed to the chemicals.



The Cu Chi Tunnels

The Cù Chi Tunnels were an immense network of connecting underground tunnels near Saigon, and are part of a much larger network of tunnels that underlie much of the country. The Cù Chi tunnels were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War, and were the Viet Cong's base of operations for the Tết Offensive in 1968



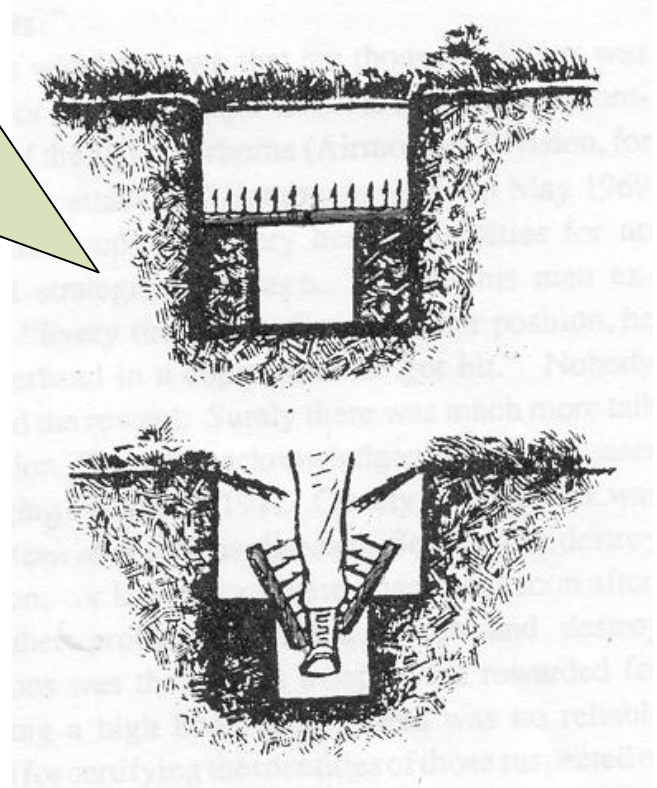
Sources: "The Tunnels of Cu Chi," Tom Mangold and John Penycate, Cornell University

Vietcong Booby Traps



Punji Steak Pit

The most basic trap. It was very cheap to make and very common. Basically a small hole covered with leaf litter, the victim's foot is impaled when stood on.



The Venus Fly Trap

A rectangular frame with overlapping barbs placed in a pit, or along trails. It was made from a metal container sunk into the ground until the top is flush and then covered with grass or leaf camouflage. The barbs inflict injury especially when the victim attempts to withdraw his leg out of the trap.

Arrow Trap

The arrow trap is constructed of a length of bamboo fastened to a board. An arrow, powered by a strong rubber band passes through it. The rubber band is held in the extended position by a catch device triggered by a trip wire.



Grenade Trap

These were placed along the likely paths of soldiers with a two stakes embedded on both sides of a creek or stream with the grenade tied to one and the safety pin partially removed from the striker lever and tied by trip wire to the other stake. When a soldier walked through the trap, it pulled the grenade pin and set it off.



Songs of the Vietnam War Era

Almost all of the following songs can be found on Youtube and turned into a playlist:

“War” - Edwin Starr

“Masters of War” - Bob Dylan

“Give Peace a Chance” - John Lennon

“What’s Goin On” – Marvin Gaye

“Vietnam” – Jimmy Cliff

“Ballad of the Green Beret” – SSgt. Barry Sadler

“Vietnam Blues” - Kris Kristofferson

“Ballad of Ho Chi Minh” Ewan MacColl

“Fortunate Son” - Creedence Clearwater Revival

“Unknown Soldier” – The Doors

“Handsome Johnny” - Richie Havens

“For What It's Worth” - Buffalo Springfield

“Goodnight Saigon” - Billy Joel

“Happy XMas (War Is Over) - John Lennon and the Plastic Ono Band

“Eve of Destruction” - Barry McGuire

“What We’re Fighting For” – Dave Dudley

“We Gotta Get Out of This Place” - The Animals

“Where Are You Now, My Son?” – Joan Baez

“Daddy Won't Be Home Anymore” - Dolly Parton

“Battle Hymn of Lt. Calley” by Terry Nelson

“Letters From Vietnam” – SSgt. Barry Sadler

“Alice's Restaurant Masacree” - Arlo Guthrie

“The “Fish” Cheer/I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-To-Die Rag” - Country Joe McDonald

Vietnamese Music:

Mot Coi Di Ve (A Place for Leaving and Returning)

Lang Le Noi Nay (So Silent Here)

Ru Doi Di Nhe (Lullaby to Life)

Ho Chi Minh

Hồ Chí Minh was the communist revolutionary leader of North Vietnam who served as prime minister (1945–1955) and president (1945–1969). During the Vietnam War, he led the Việt Cộng, or communist army of North Vietnam.

He initially fought the French for Vietnam's independence, then the Japanese when Japan invaded during World War II, and then the French again after World War II. When America got involved in protecting South Vietnam from invasion, he again got involved in taking on a larger world power.

As president, he installed a communist, single-party government. During the 1950s, political opposition groups were suppressed; those publicly opposing the government were imprisoned in hard labor camps. Many middle-class, intellectual Northerners had been lured into speaking out against Ho's communist regime, and most of them were later imprisoned in gulags, or executed.

With the outcome of the Vietnam War still in question, Ho Chi Minh died in September 1969 from heart failure at his home in Hanoi, aged 79. After the war, Saigon, the capital of the Republic of Vietnam, was renamed Hồ Chí Minh City.

