

NAME: _____ Vietnam War



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Label the following countries, bodies of water, and landmarks. (You need to draw in some of the features to place them correctly).

1. _____ Vietnam
2. _____ Thailand
3. _____ Cambodia
4. _____ China
5. _____ Gulf of Tonkin
6. _____ Laos
7. _____ South China Sea
8. _____ 17th Parallel
9. _____ South China Sea
10. _____ Hanoi
11. _____ Saigon
12. _____ Phnom Penh
13. _____ Bangkok
14. _____ Vientiane
15. _____ Mekong River
16. _____ Ho Chi Minh Trail
17. _____ Da Nang
18. _____ My Lai

The Vietnam War and the Draft

During the Vietnam War, at least one-third of the American troops were selected for military service through an involuntary process known as the draft. A government agency called the Selective Service collected the names of all American men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six. When a man's name was drawn, he was required to report to his local draft board for evaluation. Local draft boards were made up of various community members, usually with political ties to the community. Local draft boards held the fate of potential draftees in their hands. They decided who was to go to Vietnam in the end. They could decide whether or not a deferment (an official delay of military service) was to be granted.

The average U.S. soldier was a 19-year-old man from a poor or working-class family who had not attended college. For some, such findings confirmed the widespread belief that U.S. draft policies unfairly targeted the segments of American society with the least political power. American forces in Vietnam consisted of twenty-five percent poor, fifty-five percent working-class, and twenty percent middle-class men. Very few U.S. soldiers came from upper-class families. Many of the men who served in Vietnam were minorities from the nation's inner cities. African Americans accounted for about fourteen percent of the American forces, despite being about 10% of the population. Many other U.S. soldiers came from small rural towns or farming communities. During most of the Vietnam War, nineteen-year-olds who were old enough to fight and die for the United States were not even allowed to vote.

There were some legal ways to avoid or delay military service. For example, young men who had physical problems, were enrolled in college, worked in an industry that was vital to the war effort, were needed at home to support a family, or joined the National Guard might be granted deferments. Many of the ways in which draft-age men received deferments favored those who were wealthy and well educated. For example, wealthy young men could afford to remain in college full-time—and even pursue advanced degrees following graduation—in order to qualify for student deferments. But these deferments were not available to students who had to work their way through college on a part-time basis. In addition, wealthy young men could obtain deferments for physical problems more easily than poor or working-class men. Rather than trying to convince a draft board that they were physically unable to serve in the military, these men could get a note from their family doctors. Also, deferments could be given to conscientious objectors, who believed that the war was wrong for moral (i.e. religious) reasons. Finally, wealthy and educated young men were more likely to be aware of all the ways they might avoid military service. In fact, antiwar organizations often held meetings on college campuses to inform potential draftees about their options.

As the protests against the Vietnam War era increased, the draft itself became a target. Some protesters burnt their draft cards, while other Americans actually fled to Canada to avoid the draft. Based upon the reality of who served in Vietnam, many argued that the local Draft Boards were corrupt. In nature and that the draft was unfair.

This led to a suggestion to change the draft in 1969. The new draft would use a lottery system instead of a draft board. Each day of the year would be printed on a piece of paper. These pieces of paper, representing each potential draftee's birthday, were placed in blue plastic capsules. Then all 366 capsules (one for each day of the year, including leap years) were placed in a large glass jar. As millions watched on TV or listened on radio, the capsules were drawn from the jar, one by one. The first date drawn was assigned a draft number of "one"; the next date drawn received draft number "two"; and so on, until each day of the year -- each potential birthday -- had been drawn from the jar and assigned a draft number. After the lottery, draftees were called for duty in order of their draft number, beginning with number "one," proceeding to number "two," and so on, until the military's manpower needs were met. While many felt the lottery draft was an improvement, the fairness of deferments was still seen as an importance issue.

U.S. History II

Vietnam War and the Draft

Read the article and answer the questions below:

1. During the Vietnam War, at least _____ of the American troops were chosen through the draft.
2. What was a draft deferment?
3. Who had the responsibility to decide if a draftee could receive a deferment?
4. Describe the average U.S. soldier fighting in Vietnam:
5. Explain 5 reasons a young man could receive a deferment.
6. Describe how the draft changed in 1969.
7. Summarize how the draft may have contributed to some Americans turning against the Vietnam War.

1965: US orders 50,000 troops to Vietnam

http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/july/28/newsid_2754000/2754033.stm

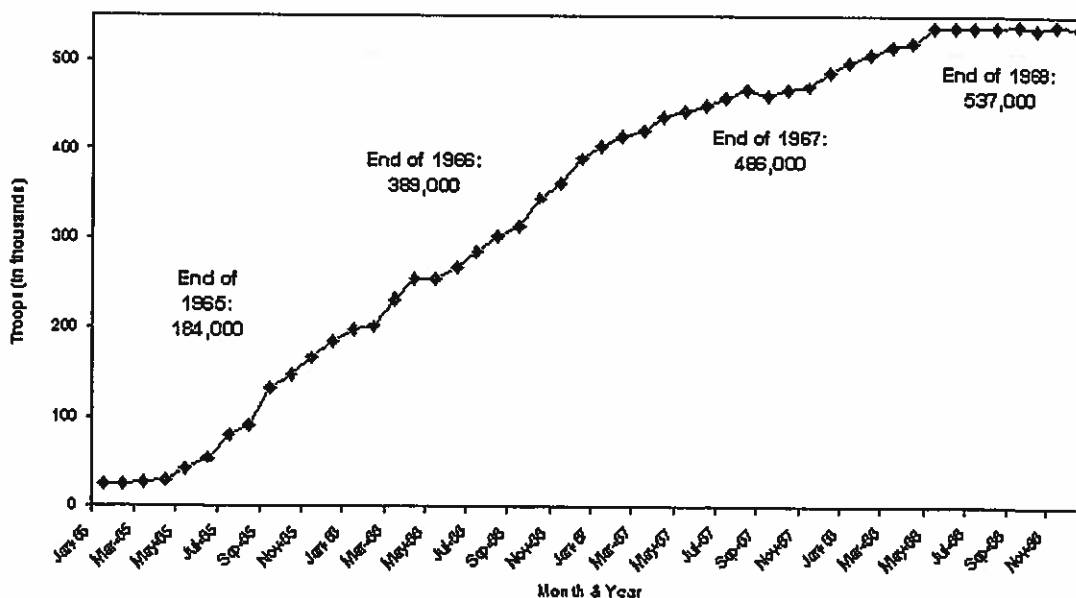
President Johnson has committed a further 50,000 US troops to the conflict in Vietnam. Monthly draft calls will increase from 17,000 to 35,000 - the highest level since the Korean War, when between 50,000 and 80,000 men were called up each month. It will take the US force in Vietnam up to 125,000 but officials say at this stage demands should be met by conscription, without calling upon the reserves.


Speaking in a televised address from the White House President Johnson said: "We do not want an expanding struggle with consequences no one can foresee." "Nor will we bluster, bully or flaunt our power. But we will not surrender, nor will we retreat," he continued. The President gave the news conference after a week of intensive talks with senior military and security advisers in Washington. He explained the decisions were in response to requests made by General Westmoreland, the US Commander in the South Vietnamese capital, Saigon. Mrs. Johnson and her daughter looked close to tears as Mr. Johnson admitted: "I do not find it easy to send the flower of our youth, our finest young men, into battle."

The US leader also made clear his desire for peace and recalled the - unsuccessful - efforts of 40 countries to bring an end to the fighting on 15 occasions. He called upon the United Nations to redouble its efforts to restore peace to Vietnam and detailed a personal letter to that effect being personally delivered to the UN Secretary-General, U Thant, in New York by the new US Ambassador to the UN, Arthur Goldberg.

The Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, and the Secretary of Defense, Robert S McNamara, are to persuade Congress of the need to finance the US' new military commitments, in the light of a reduced defense budget this year. President Johnson explained: "We intend to convince the communists that we cannot be defeated by force of arms or by superior power."

The War in Vietnam: Lyndon Johnson & The Escalatory Phase
U.S. Troops Stationed in Vietnam (in 1000s)
June 1965-December 1968






U.S. History II Vietnam Escalation

Read the BBC article written on the day President Lyndon Johnson decided to escalate American involvement in Vietnam.

1. How many troops did U.S. officials call for to serve in Vietnam?

2. How were the demands for the troops met?



3. Identify 2 reasons Johnson gives why he is “escalating” involvement in Vietnam.

4. Study the graph at the bottom of the page. Identify 2 conclusions you can draw from the graph.





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

AMERICAN HISTORY POLITICAL CARTOONS

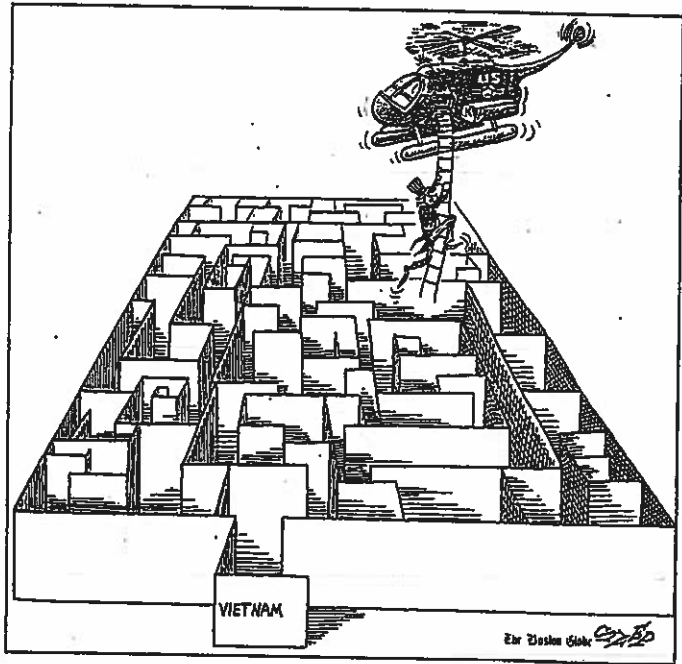
The Vietnam War

UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL CARTOONS

Study the political cartoon, and then answer the questions that follow.

1. What opinion does the cartoonist have about U.S. involvement in Vietnam?

2. What image suggests the American public's sentiment toward involvement in Vietnam?



The Boston Globe/Paul Szep

3. How does the cartoonist portray the history of U.S. government involvement in Vietnam?

ACTIVITY

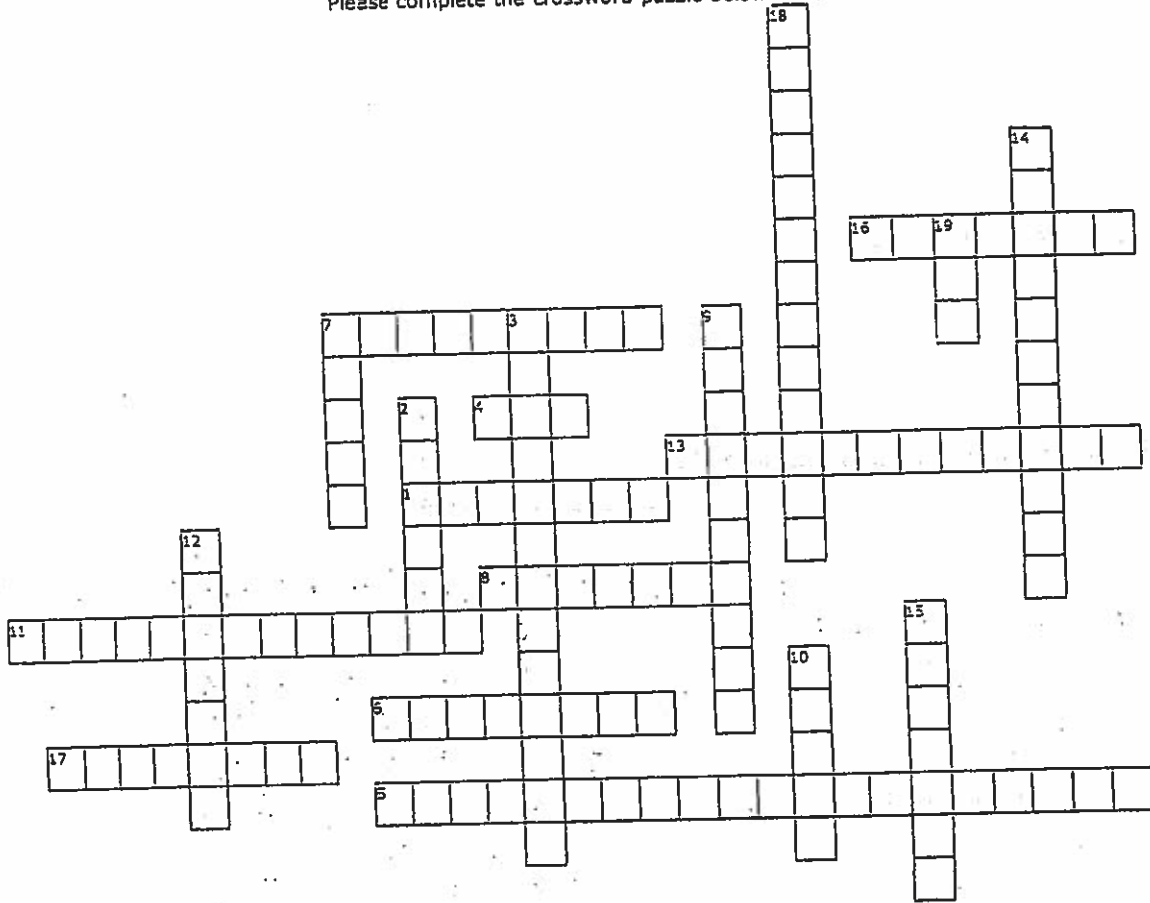
Draw a maze similar to the one pictured in the cartoon that shows the timeline of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

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Name: _____ Provided By: www.TheTeachersCorner.net

Vietnam War - Section 3 (pg. 805-811)

Please complete the crossword puzzle below



Across:

1. Political movement that sought radical change regarding poverty and racism
4. Acronym for the group that was influential to the development of the New Left
5. Held in Chicago. Outside this event protestors were attacked by police
6. Anti-war candidate who nearly beat LBJ in the New Hampshire Primary
7. Postponement of military service
8. Third Party candidate who won southern state support in the election of 1968
11. Term describing the difference in values between parents and children
13. After this event polls began to show a majority of Americans were opposed to the war in Vietnam
16. Where many young men went to avoid service in Vietnam
17. The first teach-in took place at the University of _____

Down:

2. Many avoided the draft by fleeing to countries like...
3. Term often used to describe mainstream America
9. Name of the movement which saw students take over the administration building at the University of California at Berkeley
10. During his campaign he boasted of a secret plan to win the war in Vietnam
7. Conscription of military service... name of the program which increased the number of troops in Vietnam
12. Night session of lecture and discussion on the Vietnam War
14. This amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years old (spell out the number)
15. Senator from New York who entered the Presidential race in 1968
18. _____ objector opposed the war for religious or moral reasons
19. Withdrew from the presidential campaign in March of 1968