# Unit 2: The Vietnam War Era

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **October**
Length: **4 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

## Transfer

The Cold War policy of containment and the domino theory led the United States to become increasingly involved in events in Vietnam. American officials were concerned that if Vietnam fell to communism, the entire region might be at risk. Most Americans supported initial intervention in Vietnam. After several years, however, mounting casualties, rising debt, and lack of progress soon turned public opinion and undermined support.

## Enduring Understandings

- To stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, the United States used its military to support South Vietnam.
- The United States sent troops to fight in Vietnam, but the war quickly turned into a stalemate.
- An antiwar movement in the U.S. pitted supporters of the government's war policy against those who opposed it.
- An enemy attack in Vietnam, two assassinations, and a chaotic political convention made 1968 an explosive year.
- President Nixon instituted his Vietnamization policy, and America's longest war finally came to an end.

## Essential Questions

- How and why did the United States support their foreign ally (France) Vietnam War efforts?
- How did the Tonkin Gulf Resolution lead to greater United States involvement in the Vietnam War?
- What differing opinions did Johnson's advisors have on the war in Vietnam?
- Why did the U.S. forces have difficulty fighting the Vietcong?
- For what reasons did protestors oppose the Vietnam War?
- Why did American support for the war change after the TET offensive?
- What was the impact of Vietnamization of the War?
- What led to the agreement to end the war in Vietnam?

## Content

## Learning Objectives

1. Examine how the U.S. became involved in the Vietnam conflict.

2. Describe the expansion of U.S. military involvement under President Johnson.
3. Explain the reasons for the escalation of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
4. Describe the military tactics and weapons used by U.S. forces and the Vietcong.
5. Explain the impact of the war on American society.
6. Explain the draft policies that led to the Vietnam War becoming a working-class war.
7. Trace the roots of opposition to the war.
8. Describe the antiwar movement and the growing divisions in US public opinion about the war.
9. Describe the Tet offensive and its effect on the American public.
10. Explain the domestic turbulence of 1968.
11. Describe the 1968 presidential election.
12. Describe Nixon's policy of Vietnamization.
13. Explain the public's reaction to the Vietnam War during Nixon's presidency.
14. Describe the end of the US involvement and the final outcome in Vietnam.
15. Examine the war's painful legacy in the US and SE Asia.

## 21st Century Skills

1. Creativity
2. Collaboration
3. Critical Thinking
4. Communication
5. Information and Media Literacy

## Standards

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| SOC.6.1.12.A.1.b | Analyze how gender, property ownership, religion, and legal status affected political rights. |
| SOC.6.1.12.A.14.a | Evaluate the effectiveness of the checks and balances system in preventing one branch of national government from usurping too much power during contemporary times. |
| SOC.6.1.12.A.14.g | Analyze the impact of community groups and state policies that strive to increase the youth vote (i.e., distribution of voter registration forms in high schools). |
| SOC.6.1.12.A.14.h | Assess the effectiveness of government policies in balancing the rights of the individual against the need for national security. |
| SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a | Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society. |
| SOC.6.1.12.D.12.c | Evaluate how the development of nuclear weapons by industrialized countries and developing counties affected international relations. |
| SOC.6.1.12.D.12.d | Compare and contrast American public support of the government and military during the Vietnam War with that of other conflicts. |