

Vietnam War Begins Activity

Issues in South Vietnam

1. According to the Geneva Accords of 1954, free elections were supposed to be held in 1956. Why were they cancelled?
2. Why do you think the American government feared Ho Chi Minh?
3. What were the issues with South Vietnamese President Diem?
4. Define: Vietminh-
Vietcong-
5. Why do you suppose the U.S. military was concerned with the Ho Chi Minh Trail?

President Kennedy

6. If South Vietnamese President Diem was so bad, why do you think the U.S. continued to support him?
7. What does it mean that the U.S. supported a "coup" of Diem? (use your phone to look up the word if you need to)
8. Do you think Kennedy would have truly withdrawn our troops if he had lived? Explain.

Gulf of Tonkin Incident

9. On the map: Highlight the "Gulf of Tonkin Incident"
 - Color North & South Vietnam different colors (division near 17th Parallel)
 - Highlight the Ho Chi Minh Trail
10. Based on the map, why do you think the Vietminh fired on the USS Maddox?
11. Why do you think these events in August 1964 were so important?

Tonkin Gulf Resolution

12. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution granted _____ to the president without _____. Do you think this is a good idea? Explain.
13. Explain Operation Rolling Thunder.
14. Why do you think American opinion favored the war at this point?

Issues in South Vietnam

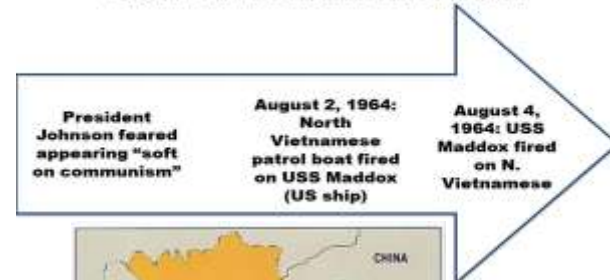


North Supporters	South Supporters
Vietminh (N. military)	S. Vietnamese
Vietcong (S. Vietnamese guerillas who fight for N.)	U.S.

President Kennedy



Gulf of Tonkin Incident



Tonkin Gulf Resolution



Vietcong Advantages

Which advantage do you think might have been the most significant for the Vietcong? Why?

15. If you were an American soldier during Vietnam, which would be the most fearful advantage that the Vietcong had? Why?



American Strategy

16. What were “Search and Destroy Missions”?

17. Agent Orange-

18. Napalm-

19. Which strategy do you think might have been the most successful? Why?



Issues with the War

20. Which issue do you think is the most important when considering public opinion? Why?

21. Which issue surprises you the most? Why?

22. What do you think the “credibility gap” really means? (ask me for help if you are not sure)

23. Do you think the credibility gap still occurs today? Explain.



Quotes

24. “No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now.” President Richard M. Nixon
Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

25. “You will kill ten of us, we will kill one of you, but in the end, you will tire of it first.” Hồ Chí Minh
Explain what he is saying in this quote.