

### 1. French Indochina

1	Who controlled Vietnam before WWII?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The French took control of Vietnam and it's surrounding countries in the 19th Century.</li> <li>It was known as French Indochina</li> <li>French rule was harsh for the Vietnamese people</li> </ol>
2	Who were the Vietminh?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During WWII, Japan invaded and occupied Indochina</li> <li>Japanese rule was even more difficult than French rule had been</li> <li>Ho Chi Minh, a Vietnamese Communist, formed a resistance group to fight against the Japanese</li> </ol>
3	What was the First Indochina War?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the Japanese surrender, France decided to fight to regain control over it's old colony</li> <li>The Vietminh continued to fight for Vietnamese independence</li> <li>The war ended in 1954 with French defeat at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu</li> </ol>
4	What did the Geneva Conference agree?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1954, representatives from Vietnam, the Vietminh, France and the USA met in Geneva</li> <li>They agreed that Vietnam would be split along the 17<sup>th</sup> Parallel – to be reunited in 1965 with an election</li> <li>The North would be run by Ho Chi Minh and the South would be run by Ngo Dinh Diem</li> </ol>

### 3. Early US involvement

1	Why did the US get involved?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The US were fearful of the spread of communism in Asia, especially after the outcome of the Korean War</li> <li>By the mid 1950s, US politicians were convinced that the USSR and China were committed to spread communism</li> <li>Eisenhower first used the term Domino Theory to describe his fear of Laos, Cambodia and Thailand becoming communist if Vietnam did</li> </ol>
2	Eisenhower's actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In November 1955 Eisenhower sent military advisors to train the ARVN</li> <li>Between 1955 and 1960 he sent nearly \$2 billion in aid to South Vietnam</li> <li>Between 1954-1961 he gave Diem 78% of the US foreign aid budget</li> </ol>
3	Kennedy's actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased the number of military experts in Vietnam to 16,000</li> <li>Sent 300 US helicopter pilots to South Vietnam to transport ARVN troops</li> <li>Supported the Strategic Hamlet Programme</li> <li>Increased financial aid to South Vietnam – ARVN troops increased by 20,000 by the end of 1961</li> </ol>

### 2. Diem's Rule

1	How did Diem rule?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was a harsh and corrupt ruler</li> <li>He was an extreme Catholic and oppressed Buddhists in his country</li> <li>He took lands off peasants to give to his friends and family</li> <li>He rigged the 1955 election in South Vietnam and arrested anyone who opposed him</li> </ol>
2	Who opposed Diem?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buddhists organized hunger strikes, mass rallies and press conferences</li> <li>A monk called Thich Quang Duc burned himself alive while other Buddhists handed out leaflets calling for change</li> <li>The NLF were a nationalist group who wanted to unite Vietnam</li> <li>The NFL targeted Diem's officials</li> </ol>
3	Civil War in South Vietnam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 1957, civil war broke out between the NLF and the ARVN</li> <li>The NLF were sent money and supplies by Ho Chi Minh</li> <li>The ARVN had the support of the USA, who sent money, weapons, military vehicles and military advisors</li> <li>Over the 1950s the USA sent \$1.6 billion to the ARVN</li> <li>In 1961 Kennedy became US president and decided to withdraw his support for Diem</li> <li>Diem and his brother were killed in a coup by his own generals in November 1963</li> </ol>

Key word	Definition
<b>17th Parallel</b>	The dividing line between North Vietnam and South Vietnam
<b>ARVN</b>	Army of the Republic of Vietnam - The national army of South Vietnam.
<b>Containment</b>	The US policy of limiting the spread of any more communism.
<b>Democratic Republic of Vietnam</b>	The name given to the North of Vietnam by Ho Chi Minh
<b>Domino Theory</b>	The political idea that if one nation fell to Communism, the surrounding ones would too
<b>French Indochina</b>	The French colonial term for Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
<b>Guerrilla Tactics</b>	A type of warfare that relies on surprise raids and sabotaging communication and supply lines
<b>NLF</b>	National Liberation Front. Formed to fight against Diem's rule
<b>Republic of Vietnam</b>	The corrupt, U.S.-backed government of South Vietnam
<b>Strategic Hamlet Programme</b>	A programme that forced peasants to leave Vietcong controlled areas into fortified villages
<b>Viet Cong (VC)</b>	Slang term for the North Vietnam army used by the USA
<b>Vietminh</b>	Vietnamese Communist resistance forces, based in northern Vietnam and led by Ho Chi Minh

# Subject: History Topic: Escalation of Conflict in Vietnam Year Group: 11

## 4. How did USA become directly involved in Vietnam?

1	President Johnson's views	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When Kennedy was assassinated, his vice president Johnson took over. He was re-elected in 1964</li> <li>He wanted to continue Kennedy's peaceful involvement but his advisors wanted him to become more involved</li> <li>Johnson set up Operation 34A to send mercenaries into North Vietnam and US naval ships into the Gulf of Tonkin</li> </ol>
2	What was the Gulf of Tonkin incident?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One naval ship patrolling the Gulf of Tonkin was the USS Maddox</li> <li>In August, when the Maddox was thought to have been attacked by North Vietnamese boats, Johnson used this as justification to declare war</li> </ol>
3	The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7<sup>th</sup> August 1964, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed</li> <li>This gave the president permission to take any military action necessary</li> <li>Within six months, the US had launched a mass bombing campaign</li> <li>By March 1965, 3500 US marines arrived in South Vietnam</li> </ol>

## 5. Vietcong tactics

1	Guerrilla tactics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guerrilla fighters did not wear uniform so they were hard to tell apart from civilians</li> <li>They work in small groups, attacked and raided enemy camps in surprise attacks</li> <li>These tactics are designed to destroy the morale of the enemy</li> </ol>
2	The Ho Chi Minh Trail	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was a 15,000 km supply route for the North Vietnamese government to supply the Vietcong with weapons</li> <li>The Vietcong received 60 tonnes of supplies, weapons and equipment per day</li> </ol>
3	Hanging on the belt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vietcong stayed close to the US troops so they could launch surprise attacks</li> <li>Around 51% of US casualties were caused by Vietcong ambushes</li> <li>This was also a way to avoid bombing attacks</li> </ol>
4	Chu Chi Tunnels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vietcong built a tunnel system over 300km long to avoid detection</li> <li>They contained workshops, hospitals, storehouses and kitchens</li> </ol>
5	Booby traps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Punji traps were booby traps made of sharpened bamboo – the Vietcong would tip the spikes with excrement to create infection</li> <li>Bouncing betties were land mines that launched into the air and exploded at stomach height</li> <li>10% of US deaths were caused by Vietcong booby traps</li> </ol>

## 6. US tactics

1	Operation Rolling Thunder	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was a mass bombing campaign targeting North Vietnamese government buildings</li> <li>From 1964-1967 1 million tonnes of bombs were dropped</li> </ol>
2	Search and destroy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A tactic where US soldiers would search villages for Vietcong soldiers and destroy the village as a warning</li> <li>They became known as zippo raids after the lighter used to burn down the village</li> <li>This caused terror and hatred for the US</li> </ol>
4	Cluster bombs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sometimes called pineapple bombs.</li> <li>They exploded in the air and released up to 600 smaller bombs to cause injury and attract medics to the scene</li> </ol>
5	Chemical weapons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agent Orange was a highly toxic weed killer the US used to destroy the jungle</li> <li>Agent Blue was used to destroy crops and disrupt the Vietcong's food supplies</li> <li>These chemical weapons could birth defects in newborns</li> <li>Napalm was used to burn through jungles but would also burn through skin and bone.</li> </ol>
6	Impact of US tactics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The tactics were horrific and caused hatred of the US as many innocent civilians were killed</li> <li>There was some success in disrupting the supply lines but not for long</li> </ol>

Key word	Definition
<b>Agent Blue/Orange</b>	A chemical herbicide and defoliant that U.S. forces sprayed to expose Vietcong hideouts
<b>Bouncing Betty</b>	A form of landmine used by the US troops in Vietnam
<b>Cluster Bomb</b>	Bombs used to cause maximum damage and attract medics for a second explosion
<b>Fragging</b>	When US servicemen killed their own superior officers
<b>Napalm</b>	A flammable, sprayable, gasoline-based gel used by the US troops
<b>Operation Rolling Thunder</b>	Blanket bombing tactic used by the US troops
<b>Search and Destroy</b>	US military strategy of proactively to locate and kill Viet Cong forces.
<b>Zippo raid</b>	Search and destroy missions which involved burning down Vietnamese villages

## 7. Morale

1	What was US morale like?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US soldiers became disheartened from repeated ambush attacks</li> <li>Some were traumatised by the effects of the tactics they were using</li> </ol>
2	Impact of low morale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some soldiers began to blame the Vietnamese people and taking out their frustrations on them</li> <li>Some soldiers became so frustrated that they would murder their commanding officers to avoid carrying out their orders</li> </ol>

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**7. The Tet offensive**

1	What was the Tet offensive?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1968, there was a temporary ceasefire to honour the Vietnamese new year</li> <li>2. 84,000 Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops attacked over 100 towns, cities and US bases</li> <li>3. There was also an attack on the US embassy in Saigon</li> </ol>
2	How did it end?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Although the Vietcong had early successes</li> <li>2. The US forces quickly regained control of the attacked areas</li> <li>3. Around 50,000 North Vietnamese and 10,000 Vietcong fighters were killed while only 10,000 US and ARVN troops were killed</li> </ol>
3	Why was it important?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was a major political and psychological victory for the Vietcong</li> <li>2. The offensive was filmed and photographed by US journalists</li> </ol>
4	Impact of the Tet Offensive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After the offensive the US public became increasingly disillusioned with the war – they realised the US weren't close to winning</li> <li>2. At the end of March, Johnson announced that he would not be running for re-election</li> <li>3. General Westmoreland (head of US forces in Vietnam) was replaced in June</li> <li>4. US forces used an enormous amount of artillery and air power – the war was costing \$30 billion a year</li> <li>5. A huge number of Vietnamese civilians were killed during the offensive – leading to further opposition.</li> </ol>

**8. The My Lai Massacre**

1	Background to the massacre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Charlie company were a unit of the US army.</li> <li>2. They suffered 28 casualties including 5 dead as a result of sniper attacks and booby traps</li> </ol>
2	What was the My Lai Massacre?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In early March, it was reported that a Vietcong base in 200 the My Lai area.</li> <li>2. Charlie company were ordered to go on a search and destroy mission</li> <li>3. They began firing as soon as they landed and destroying houses</li> <li>4. No Vietcong guerrillas were discovered.</li> <li>5. The soldiers killed somewhere between 300 and 500 civilians.</li> <li>6. Some soldiers also tortured and raped some of the villagers</li> </ol>
3	What happened afterwards?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When the US troops returned they reported that only 22 civilians had been killed and the rest were Vietcong fighters.</li> <li>2. In March 1969 a soldier named Ronald Ridenhour wrote letters to 30 US politicians and military officials exposing the massacre</li> <li>3. Time magazine published photographs of the massacre taken by an official army photographer</li> </ol>
4	The Investigations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There were 2 investigations into the massacre.</li> <li>2. The final report concluded that the Charlie company were guilty of murdering unarmed civilians and recommended action against the men guilty of rape, murder and cover-up</li> <li>3. In early 1970, 14 high-ranking army officials were charged with covering up the truth but most charges were dropped</li> <li>4. Only Lieutenant Calley was charge guilty with the murder of 109 people. He was sentenced to life in prison.</li> <li>5. After some protest, President Nixon was released in November 1974</li> </ol>
6	Impact of the massacre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The US were deeply shocked by the brutality of their own troops</li> <li>2. Mistrust of the army and the government increased</li> <li>3. In late 1969, around 700,000 people protested against the war in Washington</li> </ol>

**7. Anti-war protest under Johnson**

1	Why did people oppose the Vietnam war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some people objected on moral grounds, asking why humans were bombing other humans</li> <li>2. Other people questioned why the US were fighting instead of helping South Vietnam</li> <li>3. People were shocked by the imaged of their own soldiers being killed- the average age of a Vietnam combat soldier was 19.</li> <li>4. Martin Luther King declared he was against the war, arguing that the money should be spent on the problems in the USA.</li> <li>5. The draft system was unfair, especially when there were a disproportionate amount of black people being drafted.</li> <li>6. Many men, known as draft dodgers, tried to avoid being called up to the army – famously Muhammad Ali was arrested for draft dodging</li> <li>7. Johnson had promised to improve the USA with his Great Society Project, but instead the war was costing \$30 billion a year</li> </ol>
2	How did people protest?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In October 1965 there were anti war protests in more than 90 US cities</li> <li>2. In October 1967 100,000 protesters gathered at the Lincoln memorial</li> <li>3. An organization called the SDS began organizing 'teach ins' and organized lectures</li> <li>4. Often protests became violent and protestors clashed with the police</li> <li>5. Johnson was personally criticised., student protestors chanted "Hey, hey LBJ! How many kids did you kill today?"</li> </ol>