VIETNAM

VIETNAM

Complete the questions in yellow

- REWRITE = WRITE IT CORRECTLY
- COMPLETE = FINISH THE SENTENCE
- SUMMARIZE = QUICK SUMMARY FOR SUPERSTARS

Send to your teacher to check when complete….

By the end of this BFUs you should know:

- Why does the Vietnam War start?
- How is Vietnam different than Korea?
- Why is Vietnam a proxy war?
- Why is Vietnam a "scar" on American memory?

Vietnam started as an anti-imperialist struggle. Imperialism is when you take over another country and make it part of your empire. Vietnam was part of the French Empire since the 1850s.

France was strong up until World War II. But they lost control in World War II. Japan occupied Vietnam. Remember: Japan was making their own empire, too.

Vietnam under the French

Vietnam during World War II

The Vietnamese fought against the Japanese. One group in particular became very powerful. They are the Viet Mihn, and their leader is **Ho Chi Mihn.**

Ho Chi Mihn was a Vietnamese student living in France. But he became a revolutionary. He was most interested in fighting against the French and making Vietnam free. But he was also very interested in Communism.

Ho Chi Mihn as a student in France

Ho Chi Mihn the communist revolutionary leader

Complete

1. Vietnam was part of the _____ Empire before World II.

2. During World War II, Vietnam was occupied by the _____ Empire until the American dropped the bomb.

3. Imperialism means _____

4. The anti-imperialist leader of Vietnam was named _____.

5. Ho Chi Mihn was also a _____, which means he supported the ideas popular in China and the USSR.

Later Vietnamese Communist propaganda

Communism was very attractive to leaders fighting against European Imperialism. Communism was all about revolution. **Both Soviet (Russian) and Chinese Communism gave instructions on how to overthrow the government and make a new communist.** The instructions included lessons about using propaganda and terrorism to achieve your goals.

Vietnamese guerrillas

Ho Chi Mihn returned to Vietnam to fight the French. The French were very weak after World War II and they gave up Vietnam in the 1950s. **But the USA was very worried about the situation because Ho Chi Mihn was a Communist.**

The USA sent “advisers” to help the French in the 1950s. The USA didn’t want the Communists to take over. When the French left, Vietnam was divided into **North Vietnam and South Vietnam.** North Vietnam was Communist. South Vietnam wasn’t. The USA sent “advisers” to help South Vietnam. Now, they were officially involved.

French fighters in Vietnam

US adviser in South Vietnam

Vietnam 1954—looks just like the Koreas now

North Vietnam, just like North Korea, was Communist. And just like North Korea, they got help from the USSR and Communist China.

South Vietnam, just like South Korea, was anti-Communist. We call them “nationalists.”

Complete

1. Communist _____ and the USSR supported the North Vietnamese communists.

2. The USA sent _____ to help France fight against the North Vietnamese.

3. France exited Vietnam and the country was divided into _____ and _____ Vietnam.

4. North Vietnam was _____. They followed the lead of Ho Chi Mihn, the USSR, and China.

5. South Vietnam was anti-communist. They followed the advice of the country _____.

The North Vietnamese were very popular all over Vietnam, unlike in Korea. The North Vietnamese got credit for getting the French out of Vietnam. Everyone really hated the French, so many people—especially poor farmers—supported the North Vietnamese. They didn't care if they were Communist or not. **Farmers or the rural population supported the communist revolutionaries. They saw the South Vietnamese as American puppets.**

Vietnamese farmers

The USA helped the South Vietnamese with military advisers, money, weapons, and soldiers. But there was a group in South Vietnam who hated the Americans and wanted North Vietnam to take over. **They are called the Viet Cong.**

Viet Cong

The Viet Cong fought a guerrilla war, often using terrorist attacks, against the South Vietnamese army and the USA. **The USA responded by sending more soldiers to CRUSH THE REBELS.**

Viet Cong hiding

Carpet Bombing the Vietnam

Running from bombings

The USSR and China sent money, weapons, and military advisers to the North Vietnamese. Soon, it was a full **proxy war**. Weapons, money, and soldiers poured into the small, tropical country of Vietnam. It became the most dangerous place on Earth.

The communist government of North Vietnam attempted to “unite” Vietnam into one Communist country. They used fast **invasions**, **guerrilla warfare,** and **terror tactics.**

Viet Cong terror attack in Saigon, South Vietnam

“punji sticks”

The Viet Cong made traps for American soldiers

Rewrite

1. The Americans supported the North Vietnamese.

2. The city populations in South Vietnam supported the communists.

Complete

3. The _____ used terror attacks and guerrilla warfare to fight against the US and South Vietnam.

4. Vietnam became a _____ because the US supported one side and the USSR/China another side.

Summarize

Who fought in the Vietnam War?

How did it become a war?

America moved soldiers to Vietnam during the presidency of John F. Kennedy. But John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Lyndon Johnson became president. He **escalated** and **intensified** the conflict, which means he sent more soldiers.

John F. Kennedy

Kennedy was assassinated during this parade

Lyndon Johnson

During the 1960s, the “conflict” in Vietnam became a full war. The USA and South Vietnamese dropped more bombs on Vietnam than **ALL OF WORLD WAR II bombings combined.**

Vietnam is tropical, with a lot of jungle, so they hesitated sending their soldiers out to fight. They used bombings. They also used a chemical called Agent Orange to kill the jungle trees so that they could see the enemy.

Dropping Agent Orange

Agent Orange killed trees

Complete

1. President _____ started sending soldiers to Vietnam to back up the South Vietnamese.

2. President _____ intensified the war and escalated the conflict. He sent many more soldiers.

3. The USA dropped many _____ on Vietnam. They also dropped _____, which was a deforestation chemical.

The major problem with Vietnam is that the USA had trouble finding the enemy. The North Vietnamese had many spies in the population. Especially in the countryside, the USA couldn’t tell who was on what side. This led to a lot of civilian deaths.

Many civilians were dying. Many soldiers were dying. The war was being fought over “Communism” in a far-off country. Lots of Americans started protesting the war.

America became divided between the “silent majority” who supported the war and the “anti-war” movement who protested the war. They protested. They burned their draft cards. They openly criticized the war, the USA, the president, the military, and the idea that Communism is evil.

END THE
WAR
IN
INDOCHINA
VIETNAM
NOW

END
THE WAR
IN VIETNAM
FOR
LIFE

NO
BOMBING
STOP THE WAR

America was divided over Vietnam. And they couldn’t seem to win the war. The North Vietnamese lost many battles, but they didn’t give up. They disappeared for a while, but then came back and attacked. This happened over and over again. It was impossible.

Complete

1. The US became _____ over the Vietnam War. The country split in two.

2. The _____ supported the war. But they didn't make a lot of noise.

3. The _____ movement protested the war.

4. Some protestors burned their _____, which meant that they refused to go to war.

Summarize

1. Why did some people not support the war in Vietnam?

President Johnson declined to seek re-election. He had enough. A new president was elected. He was Richard Nixon. He promised to end the war in an **“honorable”** way. In other words, he wasn’t going to give up, but he wasn’t going to intensify the war.

President Nixon

Nixon came up with an idea that has actually been used again and again. He starts pulling out American soldiers and replacing them with Vietnamese soldiers. This is called **Vietnamization**.

Nixon explaining Vietnamization

South Vietnamese marines being trained. They later got executed for helping the enemy.

The US slowly took soldiers out of Vietnam, but they continued to send money and weapons. But this strategy failed. The North Vietnamese reappeared in force and took over the country. The USSR sent them an average of 500 million dollars of weapons each year during the war.

Complete

1. President _____ promised to bring Vietnam to an honorable end.
2. Nixon's idea was called _____.
3. Vietnamization meant _____.
4. The US slowly exited the country of _____ and left it to South Vietnamese soldiers.
5. North Vietnam continued to get support from the _____ .

Predict

6. Who do you think will win? North or South Vietnam?

In 1975, Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam fell. Vietnam was united under the Communists. The Americans were gone. Vietnam became Communist. Vietnam is still Communist.

Fall of Saigon

South Vietnamese trying to escape Saigon

Vietnam is one of a few countries that still calls itself Communist, including Cuba, China, Laos, and North Korea. But, like China, it doesn't really have a communist economy.

3.2.1930
3.2.2010
ĐẢNG QUANG VINH, BÁC HỒ VĨ ĐẠI

The Vietnam War is like a **scar** in American memory. Soldiers who came back from Vietnam were not treated well. Many young people felt like they couldn’t trust the government, anymore. People questioned the Cold War idea that “everything USA is good” and “everything Communist is bad.”

The Vietnam Memorial in DC shows how the war is like a scar on American memory. It cuts through the National Mall. The wall has the names of America's fallen soldiers. It reflects like a mirror, so the country can reflect on this difficult war.

Complete

1. What happened in 1975?

2. Who won the Vietnam War?

Summarize

1. Why is the Vietnam War like a scar for Americans?

2. How did the Vietnam War divide Americans?

3. What was the result of the Vietnam War?

Summarize the role of each president-

John F. Kennedy:

Lyndon B. Johnson:

Richard Nixon:

Opinion

How is the Vietnam War different than other wars America fought?