

Lesson Plan #2
Arkansas History
Vietnam

Essential Question: What experiences did American soldiers undergo in Vietnam?

Guiding Question and Objectives:

1. How did the American public feel about the war in Vietnam, and how did these feelings change over time?
2. What different perspectives did young people take regarding the Vietnam War at the time? What might have been some of the reasons for these opinions?
3. In what ways was the Vietnam War a defining event for an entire generation of Americans?

NCSS strands

- I. Culture
- II. Time, Continuity, and Change
- III. People, Places, and Environments
- IV. Individual Development and Identity
- V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

AR Curriculum Frameworks:

Era9.5.USH.3 Analyze sources of conflict and confrontation during the post-World War II era (e.g., atomic bomb, Truman Doctrine, Korea, Vietnam, China, Berlin, Afghanistan, Cuba).

Era8.3.WH.1 Compare the complex causes of early 20th century rebellions worldwide (e.g., eastern Europe, Russia, North Africa, South Africa, China, Vietnam, India, South America, Central America).

Teacher Background information:

An election never took place in Vietnam because the two opposing sides—South Vietnam supported by the U.S., and North Vietnam supported by China and Russia— could not agree on the terms of the presidential election. The U.S. believed that Ho Chi Minh would win the election, because of his popularity. North and South Vietnam were positioned to fight a civil war to determine which government would rule post-colonial Vietnam. Both sides built up their armed forces and engaged in battles. Thus began the Second Indochina War, known to Americans as the Vietnam War. It is called the Second Indochina War by historians because fighting also took place in Cambodia and Laos. — <http://chssp.ucdavis.edu/cwa4-vietnam.pdf>

Materials needed:

- ◆ Vietnam Powerpoint
- ◆ *Arkansas Men at War* Excerpts: pages 1-6, 13-15, 17-19, 26-30, 32-35, 66-69, 78-80 & 115-117— handout
- ◆ “What’s Going On” Marvin Gaye— handout

Opening activity:

Begin this lesson by immersing students in the sights and sounds of the Vietnam War. Project the Vietnam War Powerpoint presentation, accompanied by appropriate music from the period, such as Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On?”

Here’s the video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WIRdsdx-AA>

Activities:

10 minutes—View the video and lyrics and discuss the impact that Vietnam had on soldiers.

25 minutes—Present the Powerpoint, take notes, and discuss materials while displaying the information opposed to strict lecturing.

25 minutes—Examine Tucker’s book, *Arkansas Men at War* at the end of the presentation and students ought to be assigned to excerpts and report back about the soldiers experiences.

30 minutes—Discuss Arkansas men’s impact and and what they underwent in Vietnam.

5 minutes—Explain the outside writing assignment. See assignment and rubric—handouts

Closing:

Return to the essential question on the board, “What experiences did American soldiers undergo in Vietnam?”

Assessment:

Socially Conscious in Music —See handout

Resources:

- ◆ Vietnam Powerpoint
- ◆ *Arkansas Men at War* Excerpts: 1-6, 13-15, 17-19, 26-30, 32-35, 66-69, 78-80 & 115-117—handout
- ◆ “What’s Going On” Marvin Gaye—handout
- ◆ Socially Conscious in Music Assessment—handout
- ◆ Vietnam Information — <http://chssp.ucdavis.edu/cwa4-vietnam.pdf>