Do Now

TO WHAT EXTREME WILL YOU GO TO START A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE...BUT MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THEY STARTED THE FIGHT
I WANT STUDENTS TO:
1. **KNOW** THAT THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS WERE A CONTINUATION OF THE COLD WAR POLICY OF CONTAINMENT.
2. **UNDERSTAND** AND EXPLAIN THE EVENTS THAT LED TO THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR TO INCLUDE THE TONKIN GULF RESOLUTION.
3. **ANALYZE** THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VIETNAMESE TUNNEL SYSTEM AND CREATE AN ILLUSTRATION OF THEIR TUNNEL SYSTEM *(SKILL)*.
THE VIETNAM WAR 1954 - 1975
Background to the War

- France controlled “Indochina” since the late 19th century
- Japan took control during World War II
- With U.S. aid, France attempted re-colonization in the postwar period
Background to the War

- The French lost control to Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh forces in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu.

- President Eisenhower declined to intervene on behalf of France.
Background to the War

International Conference at Geneva

- Vietnam was divided at 17\textsuperscript{th} parallel
  - Ho Chi Minh's nationalist forces controlled the North
  - Ngo Dinh Diem, a French-educated, Roman Catholic claimed control of the South
Background to the War

- A date was set for democratic elections to reunify Vietnam
- Diem backed out of the elections, leading to military conflict between North and South
U.S. Military Involvement Begins

- Repressive dictatorial rule by Diem
  - Diem’s family holds all power
  - Wealth is hoarded by the elite
  - Buddhist majority persecuted
  - Torture, lack of political freedom prevail

- The U.S. aided Diem’s government
  - Ike sent financial and military aid
Early Protests of Diem’s Government

Self-Emolation by a Buddhist Monk
U.S. Military Involvement Begins

- Kennedy elected 1960
- Increases military “advisors” to 16,000
- 1963: JFK supports a Vietnamese military coup d'état - Diem and his brother are murdered (Nov. 2)
- Kennedy was assassinated just weeks later (Nov. 22)
Johnson Sends Ground Forces

Remembers Truman’s “loss” of China → Domino Theory revived

I’m not going to be the president who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went.
Johnson Sends Ground Forces

- Advised to rout the communists by Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara

- Tonkin Gulf Incident → 1964 (acc. to Johnson, the attacks were unprovoked)

- Tonkin Gulf Resolution
  - “The Blank Check” *
U.S. Troop Deployments in Vietnam

- 1961
- 1963
- 1964
- 1965
- 1966
- 1967
- 1968

U.S. Troops

- 0
- 100,000
- 200,000
- 300,000
- 400,000
- 500,000
- 600,000

The Ground War
1965-1968

- No territorial goals
- Body counts on TV every night (first “living room” war)
- Viet Cong supplies over the Ho Chi Minh Trail
The Vietnam War, 1964–1975

**1964**
- Gulf of Tonkin incident, August 4

**1965**
- First sustained bombing of North Vietnam

**1966**
- U.S. air raids over Hanoi, 1966–1968

**1968**
- Tet Offensive, Jan. 30–Feb. 24
- My Lai massacre, March 16

**1970**
- Invasion of Cambodia, April 29–June 29

**1971**
- Invasion of Laos, Feb. 8–March

**1972**
- Haiphong harbor mined, May
- U.S. air raids over Hanoi, Dec.

**1973**
- U.S. Troops withdraw

**1975**
- Surrender in Saigon, April 30
The Air War 1965-1968

- 1965: Sustained bombing of North Vietnam
- **Operation Rolling Thunder** (March 2, 1965)

- 1966-68: Ongoing bombing of Hanoi nonstop for 3 years! Esp. targets the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
- Downed Pilots: P.O.W.s
- Carpet Bombing - napalm
The Air War: A Napalm Attack
Who Is the Enemy?

Vietcong:

- Farmers by day; guerillas at night.
- Very patient people willing to accept many casualties.
- The US grossly underestimated their resolve and their resourcefulness.

The guerilla wins if he does not lose, the conventional army loses if it does not win. -- Mao Zedong
Who Is the Enemy?
The Ground War 1965-1968

General Westmoreland, late 1967:

>We can see the “light at the end of the tunnel.”
The Tet Offensive, January 1968

- N. Vietnamese Army + Viet Cong attack South simultaneously (67,000 attack 100 cities, bases, and the US embassy in Saigon)
- Take every major southern city
- U.S. + ARVN beat back the offensive
- Viet Cong destroyed
- N. Vietnamese army debilitated
- BUT...it's seen as an American defeat by the media
The Tet Offensive, January 1968
Impact of the Tet Offensive

Domestic U.S. Reaction: Disbelief, Anger, Distrust of Johnson Administration

Hey, Hey LBJ! How many kids did you kill today?
Johnson announces (March, 1968):

...I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President.
American Morale Begins to Dip

- Disproportionate representation of poor people and people of color.
- Severe racial problems.
- Major drug problems.
- Officers in combat 6 mo.; in rear 6 mo. Enlisted men in combat for 12 mo.
“Pentagon Papers,” 1971

- Former defense analyst Daniel Ellsberg leaked govt. docs. regarding war efforts during Johnson's administration to the New York Times.

  
  » Primary reason for fighting not to eliminate communism, but to avoid humiliating defeat.

Peace Negotiations

US & Vietnamese argue for 5 months over the size of the conference table!

Dr. Henry Kissinger & Le Duc Tho
The Ceasefire, 1973

Peace is at hand  →  Kissinger, 1972
- North Vietnam attacks South
- Most Massive U.S. bombing commences

1973: Ceasefire signed between
- U.S., South Vietnam, & North Vietnam

Peace with honor (President Nixon)
The Ceasefire, 1973

**Conditions:**

1. U.S. to remove all troops
2. North Vietnam could leave troops already in S.V.
3. North Vietnam would resume war
4. No provision for POWs or MIAs

- Last American troops left South Vietnam on March 29, 1973
- 1975: North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam
- Saigon renamed **Ho Chi Minh City**
The Fall of Saigon

South Vietnamese Attempt to Flee the Country
The Fall of Saigon

America Abandons Its Embassy

April 30, 1975
The Fall of Saigon

North Vietnamese at the Presidential Palace
A United Vietnam

Formerly Saigon
The Costs

1. 3,000,000 Vietnamese killed
2. 58,000 Americans killed; 300,000 wounded
3. Under-funding of Great Society programs
4. $150,000,000,000 in U.S. spending
5. U.S. morale, self-confidence, trust of government, decimated
The Impact

26th Amendment: 18-year-olds vote
Nixon abolished the draft → all-volunteer army

War Powers Act, 1973 *
- President must notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying military force
- President must withdraw forces unless he gains Congressional approval within 90 days

Disregard for Veterans → seen as “baby killers”

POW/MIA issue lingered
Some American POWs Returned from the “Hanoi Hilton”

Senator John McCain (R-AZ)
2,583 American POWs / MIAs still unaccounted for today.
If we have to fight, we will fight. You will kill ten of our men and we will kill one of yours, and in the end it will be you who tires of it.

Ho Chi Minh:
Lessons for Future American Presidents

1. Wars must be of short duration.
2. Wars must yield few American casualties.
3. Restrict media access to battlefields.
4. Develop and maintain Congressional and public support.
5. Set clear, winnable goals.
6. Set deadline for troop withdrawals.
BACK TO PROTESTING THE WAR

Americans protested the war in several ways. One way they voiced their anger...on college campuses.
Anti-War Demonstrations

May 4, 1970

4 students shot dead.

11 students wounded

Jackson State University

May 10, 1970

2 dead; 12 wounded

Kent State University
AMERICA PROTESTS THE WAR

Music: The Vehicle to Protest the War in Vietnam
But Before the Music...let's examine:

Music as a Primary Source
Why understand history through music?

- Music is an example of a primary source
- Music often captures emotions (love, anger, frustration, etc.) better than words alone
- Music tells *us* about *us* → Our culture, our values, our dreams, etc.
The University of South Carolina has announced a course to study the artist as a social phenomenon, taking a look at the dynamics of fame and fashion in our society. *Lady Gaga And The Sociology Of The Fame.*
How to Interpret Music

In order to interpret a song, start with FIVE basic questions:

– Who Created the Song and Why?
– What Was the Song's Historical Context?
– What is the Song's Structure?
– What Does The Song Mean?
– What Can Songs Tell Us About People and Society?
Who Created the Song? and Why?

- Know something about the artist
- What is the song's Purpose?
  - publication
  - performance
  - profit
- How might a song transcend its original purpose?
What Was the Song's Historical Context?

- Examine the events taking place in the world at the time the song was written.
- Pay attention to features that might seem unusual because they often make perfect sense in historical context.
- Examine the musician. Was he or she involved in any important political movements or groups.
What is the Song's Structure?

- Examining a song's structure is a lot like analyzing a poem. Look for:
  - Repetition
  - Figurative Language (Alliteration, Similes, Metaphors, Onomatopoeia, etc.)
  - Rhythm and Rhyme
What does the song mean?

Go beyond the literal meaning of the words and also look for allusions, suggestions, and implied meanings. Research to see if the author of the song has commented on his work. Look at audience reactions to the song.
What Can Songs Tell Us About People and Society?

- Songs express widely-shared values or experiences and emotions that help define a group’s identity and solidarity.
- Songs, singers, and genres also help people construct self-images and provide models for how to behave.
- Song lyrics also express judgments—and even conflicts—about lifestyles, values, and appearances.