

Steps to Vietnam War

- Pre-World War 2, Vietnam is a colony of France
- 1941, Ho Chi Minh, Communist activist returns to Vietnam and works to oust France and Japan starting in North Vietnam. He allies with United States to fight against Japan.
- July 1945, At the Potsdam Conference Vietnam is divided in half, China will disarm Japan North of the 16th parallel, and Britain will do the same in the South. France requests and is granted their colonies back.
- September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh declares the Democratic Government of Vietnam and reads from the Declaration of Independence. He pursues American recognition but is ignored by President Truman.
- September 13, 1945, British forces arrive in Saigon, South Vietnam. In North Vietnam 150,000 Chinese Nationalist soldiers arrive in Hanoi and loot North Vietnam.
- September 22, 1945, 1400 French soldiers released from Japanese camps attack Viet Minh, killing many innocent civilians.
- September 24, 1945, In response Viet Minh shuts down the power and kills 150 French civilians.
- September 26, 1945 Lt. Col. Peter Dewey files a report saying "U.S. out to clear out of Southeast Asia." Peter Dewey is killed by Viet Minh guerrillas.
- October 1945, 35,000 French soldiers drive the Viet Minh from Saigon.

- May-September- Ho Chi Minh spends 4 months negotiating full independence, but fails to obtain it.
- June 1946, France declares a South Vietnam Republic of Chochinchina.
- October 1949, Mao Zedong defeats Chiang Kai-shek. China becomes communist.
- January 1950, China and Soviet Union (Russia) recognize North Vietnam, Democratic Republic of Vietnam. China sends military advisors and modern weapons to the Viet Minh.
- February 1950, United States and Britain recognize South Vietnam as a country. Viet Minh starts attacking South Vietnam near the Chinese border.
- February 7, 1950, Senator McCarthy announces there are Communists hiding in the United States government, and no one is willing to be soft on Communists.
- June 30, 1950, President Truman orders ground troops into Korea following North Korea's invasion of the South.
- July 26, 1950, President Truman authorizes economic aid to France in their fight against Ho Chi Minh, and sends over military advisors.
- 1951, French casualties in Vietnam are over 90,000. France continues to lose through 1952.
- January 1953, Eisenhower becomes president, and increases aid to France and South Vietnam. He creates the "Domino Theory," if one country falls to communism, they all will.
- July 27, 1953, Korean War ends with the country being split in two. Many see it as a potential way to solve the Vietnam conflict.

- March-May 1954, The French desperately appeal to United States for more aid, President Eisenhower dismissed sending troops because of possibility of high casualties. No action is taken by United States.
- May- July 1954, France is defeated, and Vietnam is split at the 17th parallel into two countries, North Vietnam (communist) and South Vietnam.
- January 1955, United States sends aid to South Vietnam.
- July 1955, Ho Chi Minh goes to Moscow and accepts Soviet aid.
- 1956, Elections are agreed to be held, but South Vietnam believes the election process to be rigged and refuses to participate in the process.
- January 1957, Soviet Union proposes a permanent division of Vietnam into North and South Vietnam, with both countries recognized by United Nations. The United States refuses to agree.
- October 1957, Viet Minh guerillas begin attacking South Vietnam with bombings and sending in pamphlets promising a better life under communist rule.
- March 1959, Ho Chi Minh in North Vietnam declares war to unite all of Vietnam under his leadership.
- April 1960, North Vietnam declares everyone must join the army.
- April 1960, several South Vietnamese nationalists ask President Diem to change his policies to allow for more freedoms. He refuses and dissolves several newspapers.
- November 1960, An attempted coup fails against President Diem, and thousands flee North to escape from his wrath. 50,000 people are arrested by the police.

- January 1961, Soviet Union pledges support to North Vietnam and encourages them to send more soldiers into the fight.
- January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as President. He declares “we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to insure the survival and the success of liberty.” Outgoing President Eisenhower strongly encourages supporting South Vietnam.

Sources:

<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/index-1945.html>

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/vietnamwar/a/vietnamwar.htm>

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/causes_vietnam_war.htm

Goal: for students to present a good argument for the United States to enter or not enter the Vietnam War.

Time allotted: 30 minutes to prepare arguments and visual

Supplies required: this handout, poster board, markers or crayons

Age range: this was completed with a group of kids from elementary to high school.

Report Score

Presentation

Did each member of the group present?	
Were you standing still?	
Did you look at the audience?	
Did you speak in a loud voice so we could hear you?	
Did you have an opening speech?	
Did you have a closing speech?	
Did you have at least 3 supporting reasons?	
Was your position clearly stated?	
Total for Presentation	

Visual

Was your position clearly stated?	
Did you use at least 4 colors in your visual?	
Were your reasons clearly written?	
Was your writing legible?	
Was the pictures chosen relevant to your presentation?	
Can you explain your visual?	
Total for Visual	