



1960s AND 1970s LESSON PLANS

The Vietnam Era 1967–71 War and Antiwar Sentiment Lesson Two – The Vietnam War in Photos

by Teresa Boruff-Young

Introduction

These lessons are part of a U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant to the Brown County Schools, Nashville, Indiana, in collaboration with the Department of History, Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis and the Indiana Historical Society.

In this lesson students will use the digital image collection from the National Archives and Records Administration or other sources to view photographs from the Vietnam War era. Students will download a Photo Analysis Worksheet from the National Archives Web site and complete an analysis for one of the photographs.

Essential Question

How did the Vietnam War impact Americans?

Grade Level

High School

Academic Standards for the Social Studies

- Indiana Standards:
 - High School, U.S. History, Standard 7, The United States in Troubled Times: 1960 to 1980 (USH 7.3, 7.4, and 7.10)

- National Standards (National Council for Social Studies): II Time, Continuity, and Change; III People, Places, and Environments; V Individuals, Groups, and Institutions; VI Power, Authority, and Governance; and X Civic Ideals and Practices

Social Studies/Historical Concepts

Vietnam War and antiwar protest

Time Required

One eighty-minute class period

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Describe experiences of Americans serving in Vietnam.
- Make inferences about the Vietnam experience through observations of photographs and prior knowledge of the Vietnam War.

Materials Required

- Internet access to the National Archives and Records Administration Web site at <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/vietnam-photos/#documents> (accessed January 20, 2011) to view the following images:

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- A nurse attending to a wounded soldier
- A soldier wearing a helmet with the months of the year scratched out as a countdown
- Soldiers on a vehicle firing weapons
- Soldiers carrying a wounded soldier through a marsh area
- Internet access to the National Archives and Records Administration Web site at <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo.html?template=print> (accessed October 7, 2011) to download and print a Photo Analysis Worksheet.
- Optional materials:
 - Microfilm or photocopies of local newspapers for the period 1967 through 1971 that include photographs of Americans serving in Vietnam and life in the United States during this period.
 - As an example, a list of newspaper reports from the *Bloomington Herald-Telephone* and Indiana University's *Indiana Daily Student* during the Vietnam War era is provided on page three of this lesson.
 - Photocopies of images from local historical societies for the period 1967 through 1971 that depict Americans serving in Vietnam and life in the United States during this period.
 - Contact your local historical society or local history museum for suggestions.
- Download copies of the Photo Analysis Worksheet from the National Archives Web site and make photocopies of the worksheet for each student.
- If students have Internet access:
 - Identify the URL addresses for the National Archives Web site or other sites and provide them to students for use in this lesson.
- During class:
 - If Internet access limited:
 - Distribute copies of Vietnam War-era photographs and the Photo Analysis Worksheet for students to view.
 - Have students select an image and complete a worksheet prior to the class discussion.
 - If students have Internet access:
 - Provide the URL addresses that students may use for this activity.
 - Have students select an image, then download and complete the Photo Analysis Worksheet for the photo they have selected.
- To conclude the lesson:
 - As a class, discuss the photographs and the students' interpretations of the images. What do these images tell us about the Vietnam War era?

Assessment

Participation in class discussion and completion of a Photo Analysis Worksheet will indicate understanding of life during the Vietnam War as a soldier in Vietnam and those at home in the United States.

Procedure

- Prior to class:
 - If Internet access is limited:
 - Download and photocopy images of the Vietnam War era for students to view. Make sure there is at least one image per student.

Suggested Resources

Primary Sources – Newspapers

Check state and local libraries for newspaper accounts of the Vietnam War during the period 1967–71.

The following are examples of news articles from two Bloomington, Indiana, newspapers reporting on the Vietnam War and local opposition to United States involvement in the war:

Bloomington Herald-Telephone

- “An Opportunity to Express Your Opinion,” April 4, 1967
- “How Do You Vote on Vietnam Policy?” April 4, 1967
- Voice of the People “Straw Vote on Vietnam,” April 4, 1967
- “Grassroots Opinion’ Supports More Pressure,” May 9, 1967
- “Demonstration Cost U.S. Lives: Westmoreland,” April 24, 1967
- “Hartke Assails LBJ as Viet ‘Dissenter,’” October 5, 1967
- “Anti-Draft Pamphlets Passed at South Bend,” October 6, 1967
- “1,068 in Bloomington Ask Viet Bombing Halt,” October 8, 1967
- “This Way Out” Political Cartoon,” October 8, 1967
- “Vietnam Protests Won’t Paralyze Pentagon,” October 15, 1967
- “Anti-War Protests Spread Across U.S.,” October 17, 1967
- “20 Injured at Oakland: Protests Continue,” October 18, 1967
- “Rallyists Divided,” October 19, 1967
- “Police Repel Protester Charge,” October 19, 1967

“Antiwar Rallies Flare; Brooklyn Bout Bloody,” October 20, 1967

“Thousands Attack Pentagon; Marshalls, Troops Repel Push,” October 22, 1967

“Guardsmen Rout Students with Gas on Cal Campus,” March 1, 1969

“31 Students Protests in Week, but Resistance Is Stiffening,” March 2, 1969

Indiana Daily Student

“Viet Cong Hit Saigon; Red Flag Flies at Hue,” February 1, 1968

“Johnson Rules Out Viet Bomb Halt; Dead and Wounded Exceed 14,000,” February 2, 1968

“U.S. and Soviet Ships Collide Near North Korea,” February 2, 1968

“A Communication to Students,” February 1968

“The Right to Demonstrate: . . . CEWW- Larger Than Vietnam Issue,” February 17, 1968

“Robert Turner: Strong Support for Vietnam,” February 22, 1968

“New Draft Policy Offers Canada and Confusion,” March 1, 1968

“War Critics in Senate Spark Vietnam Debate,” March 8, 1968

“Ex-Peace Corpsman to Form Anti-war Club,” March 3, 1968

“Invitation to Responsibility,” March 1968

“Anti-war Activities Planned,” April 3, 1968

“Some Faculty to Participate in Strike,” April 24, 1968

“Dunn Meadow Anti-war Fair Set,” April 24, 1968

“Officials Discuss Faculty Strike,” April 26, 1968

“Strike Cuts Class Attendance,” April 27, 1968

“Parades, Protests, and Rallies Today,” April 27, 1968