

Name

KEY

Class

Date

Pathways Chapter 24 - The Vietnam War

Test Review

1. Identify the events leading up to the War between North and South Vietnam.

In November 1963, military leaders seized control of South Vietnam and assassinated Diem. In South Vietnam, the military leaders who had taken over the government were unsuccessful and unpopular. As a result, Communist guerrillas in South Vietnam, known as the Viet Cong, made gains in both territory and loyalty. In August 1964, Johnson announced that North Vietnamese torpedo boats had attacked American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. However, some people doubted that this incident had happened and believed it was only an excuse for further U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

2. Identify U.S. policies against Communism before Vietnam and how they changed after the War.

According to President Eisenhower's domino theory, if one Southeast Asian nation fell to communism, others would soon follow. The United States began providing economic aid to the French in Vietnam in 1950. In 1960, President Eisenhower sent hundreds of military advisors to help South Vietnam's struggle against the North Vietnamese Communists. We accepted the Communism after withdrawing troops in South Vietnam and also Laos and Cambodia in South East Asia.

3. Explain how President Johnson changed the course of the war.

Under the resolution, the President had authority to "take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression." The resolution, therefore, changed the balance of power between Congress and the President.

4. How did battlefield conditions in Vietnam affect American soldiers?

- *Had superior weapons*
- *Were unprepared for heat, terrain, or guerrilla tactics*
- *Lacked support of most South Vietnamese*
- *Most never saw the enemy but constantly faced the possibility of sudden danger.*

5. Describe the course of the War between 1965 and 1968.

The number of American soldiers stationed in Vietnam rose from about 25,000 at the beginning of 1965 to nearly 536,000 by the end of 1968. Despite the large buildup of American troops, between 1965 and 1967 the war was at a stalemate.

6. List reasons why the Tet offensive was a turning point in the war.

Because Americans now knew that the Viet Cong could launch massive attacks, and because no end to the war was in sight, the Tet Offensive proved to be a major psychological victory for the Viet Cong and a turning point in the war.

7. Explain why President Johnson decided not to seek reelection in 1968.

Continuing protests and an increasing number of casualties steadily decreased popular support for Johnson's handling of the war. After the Tet Offensive, Johnson rarely left the White House for fear of angry protesters. Two other Democratic contenders, antiwar candidate Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy, brother of John Kennedy and a senator from New York, campaigned against Johnson for the party's nomination. On March 31, 1968, Johnson announced in a nationally televised speech that he would not seek another term as President.

8. Describe President Nixon's policies to lead America out of the Vietnam War.

President Nixon campaigned on the claim that he had a secret plan to end the war. In June 1969, he began the policy of Vietnamization, replacing American troops in Vietnam with South Vietnamese soldiers.

9. Describe what happened in Vietnam after the withdrawal of American forces.

After American forces had withdrawn, North Vietnam attacked strategic cities in South Vietnam, ending with its capital, Saigon. Following a last-minute evacuation of both American soldiers and Vietnamese refugees, South Vietnam surrendered in April 1975, and Vietnam became unified under a Communist government.