



Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Lesson Plan for Educators

Topic: U.S. Involvement in Vietnam

Lesson Title: A Generation is Changed Forever

Level: High School

Focus Statement: Focus Statement: History involves acquiring knowledge about significant events, developments, individuals, groups, documents, places and ideas to support investigations about the past. Historical thinking requires understanding and evaluating change and continuity over time, and making appropriate use of historical evidence in answering questions and developing arguments about the past. It involves locating and assessing historical sources of many different types to understand the contexts of given historical and the perspectives of different individuals and groups within geographic units that range from the local to the global.

Nebraska Education Standards:

U.S. History (Progressive Era-Present) – Change, Continuity and Context:

SS HS.4.1 (US) Analyze and evaluate patterns of continuity and change over time in American History.

SS HS.4.1a (US) Evaluate the causes and effect of historical events on various groups in the United States.

SS HS.4.1c (US) Evaluate the impact of people, events, and ideas, including various cultures and ethnic groups on the United States.

SS HS.4.4 (US) Evaluate sources for perspective limitations, accuracy, and historical context.

SS HS.4.4a (US) Compare, contrast and critique the central arguments in primary and secondary sources of history from multiple media.

SS HS.4.4b (US) Evaluate strengths and limitations of a variety of primary and secondary historical sources.

SS HS.4.4c (US) Determine the relationship between multiple causes and effect of events and developments in the past.

Historical Inquiry and Research:

SS HS.4.5 (US) Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

SS HS.4.5a (US) Construct meaningful questions about topics in U.S. history.

SS HS.4.5b (US) Locate, evaluate, and cite appropriate sources for research about selected topics in U.S. history, including primary and secondary sources.

SS HS.4.5e (US) Communicate inquiry results within a historical context.

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Lesson Objectives

- Students will research the statistics for the demographics of the military during the Vietnam war.
- Students will use available printed, film, and internet information about the types of civil disobedience, and protests that occurred in the U.S. during the Vietnam war.
- Students will familiarize themselves with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and review their speeches given about Vietnam.
- Students will use available printed, film, and internet information about the media coverage in-country for the U.S. audience during the Vietnam war.

Summary of Tasks/Actions

1. Present an analysis of the demographics of the military population especially race, ethnicity, immigration status, and their level of education.
2. Compare the civil disobedience, and protests of the Vietnam war years with any occurrences during World War I, World War II, Korean War, and the Gulf wars.
3. Compare, contrast and discuss the media coverage of the Vietnam war. Was the media coverage fair and accurate? Identify and consider the differences in media coverage between that war and the media coverage of the Gulf wars.
4. Research and discuss the reasons that the United States entered the Vietnam war.
5. Research and discuss the effect that President Kennedy's death had, if any on the United States' entry into the Vietnam war.

Materials/Equipment

- Internet access
- Copies of speeches given by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson regarding Vietnam.
- Audio/visual equipment and screen
- Websites, books, articles, etc., describing U.S. society and activism during Vietnam war
- Demographic statistics for the Vietnam war years

References/Sources

- NVVM.org
- Vietnam War, History.com editors https://www.history.com/topics/vietnam_war/vietnamwar_history)
- Vietnam War Facts Stats and Myths (<https://www.uswings.com>)
- The American War Library (<http://www.americanwarlibrary.com/vietnam>)
- Vietnam War Casualties (<https://www.militaryfactory.com>)
- The Media's Role in Vietnam War (<https://thevietnamwar.info/media-role-vietnam-war>)