

The End of the War and its Legacy Guided Reading Questions

1. What is Vietnamization?
 - Gradual plan to withdraw US troops from SV and give the fighting back to the South Vietnamese.
 - In 1969, the first 25,000 troops came back.
2. Describe "Peace with Honor".
 - Nixon's plan to end the Vietnam War with dignity and respect.
 - Order the secret bombings of North Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos in order to really scare the enemy.
3. Who was part of the Silent Majority and what did they support?
 - They were Americans who silently supported the Vietnam War.
4. Describe the My Lai Massacre.
 - Takes place in 1968 in a village in northern South Vietnam.
 - American troops kill about 200 innocent Vietnamese women, children, and elderly men after they find NO Vietcong in the village.
 - 25 officers are charged but only the Lieutenant Calley is convicted.
5. Describe the invasion of Cambodia.
 - In 1970, President Nixon ordered the invasion and bombing of neutral Cambodia because the NV were using the Ho Chi Ming trail to deliver supplies to the Vietcong
 - Effects – rise in college protests – 1.5 million students in 1,200 campuses.
6. Describe the violence in college campuses.
 - May 4, 1970 National Guards kill 4 students at Kent State University in Ohio who were protesting the bombing of Cambodia.
 - At Jackson State in Mississippi, 2 students are killed by the National Guards.
7. Describe the Pentagon Papers.
 - In 1971, an employee of the Defense Department leaked the Pentagon Papers, 7,000 pages of classified documents demonstrated that the American government had lied to the public about the Vietnam War. Ex. President Johnson committed troops even when he said he wouldn't.
8. Describe the final push in Vietnam.

- There's a final massive bombing on North Vietnam in 1972, 100,000 bombs are dropped.
 - After calls to end the war grow bigger and on January 27, 1973 the US signs a peace agreement with North Vietnam.
9. Describe the fall of Saigon.
- In April 1975, the North Vietnamese captured the capital of South Vietnam Saigon.
 - The entire country became communist.
10. What was the toll of the Vietnam War for the US and Vietnam?
- 58,000 Americans die, 303,000 wounded
 - Americans are more cautious of foreign affairs and distrust for the government grows.
 - Vietnam 2 million casualties, left with unstable government and destruction.
11. How did veterans cope at home after the Vietnam War?
- About 15% of the 3.3 million soldiers who served developed PTSD.
 - Some became addicted to drugs and alcohol. Several thousand committed suicide.
12. Describe the turmoil in Southeast Asia.
- Vietnam – 400,000 SV are sent to reeducation camps, 1.5 million leave Vietnam, poor Vietnamese called “boat people” because they left in boats leave (50,000 die at sea.)
 - In Cambodia the Khmer Rouge kills about 1 million educated people in a Civil War.
13. What is the legacy of the Vietnam War?
- The draft is abolished because of all the antiwar sentiment.
 - War Powers Act (1973) – limited the power of the president. The president had to inform Congress within 48 hours of committing troops to a conflict and troops could only be sent for 90 days. Meant to limit power of president.
 - Americans became distrustful of government because of all the lies.
 - 26th Amendment (1971) lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.