



## The Vietnam War

### U.S. History Unit Companion

#### Directions

- Complete the Prepare section before you begin a unit.
- Complete the Lesson Summaries and Guided Notes section as you work through each lesson.
- Complete the Unit Review sections before you take the cumulative assessment.

**NOTE:** Your teacher may require that you complete and submit this unit companion.

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## Prepare

Throughout The Vietnam War unit, you will explore the following Essential Questions.



### Unit Essential Questions

- What was the impact of Richard Nixon’s foreign and domestic policies?
- What were the causes and effects of the Vietnam War?
- What impact did Gerald Ford’s foreign and domestic policies have on society?
- What challenges in foreign and domestic policies did Jimmy Carter face during his administration?
- How did the counterculture movements of the 1960s and 1970s change society?

You will learn about the following topics in The Vietnam War unit:

- President Richard Nixon’s foreign and domestic policies
- the events leading to Nixon’s resignation
- key events in the Vietnam War
- the rise of anti-war protests
- President Gerald Ford’s foreign and domestic policies
- President Jimmy Carter’s foreign and domestic policies
- the rise of the environmental movement
- the countercultural movements of the 1960s and 1970s
- the goals and achievements of the women’s movement
- the movements for Latino and Native American civil rights

You will take a cumulative quiz and test over the content in this unit.



## Lesson Summaries and Guided Notes

Each lesson is summarized on the following pages. Read the summary before a lesson to preview the most important information, including people, places, and events. Read the summary after a lesson to review the lesson content without rereading every word. As you complete each lesson, record information in the Guided Notes section. Some questions have been provided for you. You may also take notes on other important lesson information.

# The Presidency of Richard Nixon Summary

President Nixon’s domestic policies differed greatly with Johnson’s. While both supported space exploration and affirmative action, they had different approaches to addressing the issues of poverty, health care, and the economy. Unlike Johnson, Nixon did not support the civil rights movement and passed laws that slowed down the process of desegregation in the South. However, he did pass reforms to help Native Americans. He also established a number of agencies to address a series of crises, such as drug-related violence, workplace hazards, the environment, an economic recession, and an oil embargo.

President Nixon focused his attention on foreign policy. The Nixon Doctrine held that the United States would continue to assist its allies, but demanded they take more responsibility in protecting themselves. He also met with two leaders in the communist world, Chairman Mao Zedong of China and Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union and worked to improve foreign relations and limit nuclear weapons.

Nixon found himself embroiled in a scandal when it was discovered that burglars had broken into his opponent’s office at the Watergate Hotel during the 1972 election. When a special prosecutor investigating the Watergate Scandal requested recordings of Nixon’s telephone conversations regarding the matter, Nixon refused to produce them. He maintained that he was innocent. Eventually the House Judiciary Committee moved to impeach Nixon. Under great political pressure, Nixon resigned the presidency in 1974.

The Presidency of Richard Nixon	
Compare the policies of Nixon and Johnson with regard to civil rights. (slide 1)	While Johnson passed pivotal civil rights legislation during his administration, Nixon took a more hands off approach of deliberate neglect. For the first time in fifteen years, the federal government slowed down the process of desegregation under Nixon.
Cite two pieces of evidence that Nixon did support the civil rights movement. (slide 1)	
What was Nixon’s biggest accomplishment in space exploration? (slide 1)	

## The Presidency of Richard Nixon

How did Nixon help to ensure safety on the job? (slide 2)	
How did Nixon deal with the increase in violence in the United States? (slide 2)	
What was “stagflation”? (slide 3)	
How did the oil crisis in 1973 further weaken the U.S. economy? (slide 3)	
What were the goals of the Nixon Doctrine? (slide 4)	
Why did Nixon visit communist China in 1972 and what did he accomplish? (slide 4)	
What legislation did Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign together (slide 4)	
What was “CREEP” and how was it involved in the Watergate burglary? (slide 5)	
How did John Dean’s testimony about Watergate implicate the president in the crimes? (slide 6)	

The Presidency of Richard Nixon	
What did the Supreme Court demand from Nixon in <i>United States v. Nixon</i> ? (slide 6)	
Why did Nixon resign as president in 1974? (slide 6)	

## The Vietnam War Summary

In the 1950s, the United States became concerned about Communist forces taking control of Vietnam. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, presidents began sending more troops each year to protect South Vietnam from North Vietnamese Communist forces. The Vietnam War was long and bloody, with many military and civilian casualties. The growing popularity of television meant that everyday Americans were exposed to images of the fighting, and many people became concerned that the war was a bad idea. Television coverage, along with a mandatory draft and widespread casualties, led to the anti-war movement. The movement was especially popular among students.

Anti-war sentiment was so strong that Richard Nixon knew he needed to take steps to end the war when he became president. He turned over more responsibility to the South Vietnamese to fight the conflict, and he revoked legislation that allowed the president the authority to deploy troops without Congressional approval.

People became even more upset upon the discovery of the Pentagon Papers, secret documents that revealed that President Johnson had not been honest about the war. Nixon responded to the nation's outcry by negotiating peace with North Vietnam. The United States had lost the war.

The Vietnam War Guided Notes	
Why did Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy send military forces to Vietnam between 1955 and 1963? (slide 1)	Presidents Eisenhower first sent troops in to help protect South Vietnam from the communist regime in North Vietnam. Kennedy continued Eisenhower's policies when the government in South Vietnam started to weaken and increased the number of U.S. troops each year.

## The Vietnam War Guided Notes

How did the Gulf of Tonkin resolution expand the powers of the president? (slide 2)	
What was the draft and who did it impact? (slide 2)	
How did the role of U.S. troops in Vietnam change under President Johnson? (slide 3)	
What happened during the Mai Lai Massacre? (slide 2)	
How did television shape the public's perception of the Vietnam War? (slide 4)	
What factors led to increased anti-war sentiment in the United States? (slide 5)	
What happened at Kent State University? (slide 5)	
What was the outcome of the <i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i> Supreme Court case? (slide 5)	

## The Vietnam War Guided Notes

How did <i>Tinker V. Des Moines</i> and the passage of the Twenty-sixth Amendment empower young Americans in their anti-war protests? (slide 5)	
What were the Pentagon Papers? (slide 6)	
How did Nixon's diplomatic efforts with the Soviet Union and China help bring about the end of the Vietnam War? (slide 6)	
What were the terms of the Paris Peace accord? (slide 7)	

## The Presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter

### Summary

When Nixon resigned, Vice President Gerald Ford took over as president. Ford believed the nation needed to begin healing and that putting Nixon through a long trial for his crimes would further divide the country. He decided to pardon Nixon, a decision met with skepticism from many Americans.

Ford's foreign policy, such as an attempt to send money to help the South Vietnamese, was blocked by a Democratic Congress. He did achieve some foreign policy goals through diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

At home, Ford tried to tackle issues of a weak economy and encouraged frugality with his "Whip Inflation Now" campaign. When recession hit, he took measures to stimulate the economy and cut government spending.

President Jimmy Carter was successful in some foreign policy efforts, most notably getting Egypt and Israel to sign a peace treaty. However, his foreign policy accomplishments were overshadowed by his inability to free American hostages taken by radical Iranian fundamentalists.

Domestically, President Carter achieved some social reforms, such as improving conditions for the elderly and the poor. He also established the Department of Energy to address more efficient energy use.

<b>The Presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter Guided Notes</b>	
Why did Gerald Ford pardon Richard Nixon? (slide 1)	Ford believed that putting Nixon on trial for his crimes would be a long and divisive process that would hurt a nation that needed to begin healing.
Why wasn't President Ford successful in his plan to send money to South Vietnam? (slide 2)	
What were the terms of the Helsinki Accords? (slide 2)	
According to President Ford, what was the country's most dangerous enemy and how did he plan to conquer it? (slide 3)	
How did Ford respond to the worsening recession? (slide 3)	
What was President Carter's biggest foreign policy achievement? (slide 4)	



## The Presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter Guided Notes

What controversial decision did President Carter make and how did other countries respond? (slide 4)	
Why did President Carter's response to the Iranian Hostage Crisis fail? (slide 5)	
What was the Carter Doctrine? (slide 5)	
How did President Carter help low-income citizens? (slide 6)	
What policies did President Carter create to solve the energy crisis? (slide 6)	

## More Social Changes Summary

In the 1960s and 1970s, people became aware that pollution was harmful to people's health and to all living creatures on the planet. They began to demand more legislation to protect the environment, and so Congress passed a number of laws aimed at environmental protection. Nixon also established the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970.

Environmental disasters also helped bring about awareness of environmental issues. These disasters included the discovery of toxic chemicals in Love Canal, New York and a nuclear power plant meltdown at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

The 1960s and 1970s saw the rise of the counterculture, a group of mostly young people who rejected traditional values and expectations. These people, known as hippies, demonstrated their rebellion with their clothing, drug use, attitudes toward social norms, protests of the Vietnam War, music and art.

## More Social Changes Guided Notes

What factors led to the passage of environmental legislation in the 1960s and 1970s? (slide 1)	Americans became increasingly aware of the ways that pollution was harming the health of humans, plants, and animals. Many people called for more laws to protect the environment. The government responded to these calls by passing laws such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.
What environmental disasters of the 1960s and 1970s helped bring awareness to environmental issues? (slide 2)	
What traditional societal beliefs did hippies reject? (slide 3)	
What were some ways that hippies demonstrated their rebellion against traditional society? (slide 3)	
How were the values of the counterculture reflected through art? (slide 4)	

## The Civil Rights Movement Continues Summary

The women's rights movement gathered strength in the 1970s. Feminists pushed for reforms in discriminatory laws and encouraged more women to run for public office. The Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* and the establishment of Title IX in the Education Amendments Act were landmark moments in the fight for women's rights.

Women were also fighting for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. In the end, not enough states ratified the amendment, and it never passed.

The Latino rights movements were also gaining strength in the 1970s. They fought for better pay and working conditions, as well as political power for Mexican Americans. Latinos benefited

from the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of race. This act gave rise to the practice of affirmative action. The Latino rights movement also benefited from laws and court decisions that prohibited segregation of students based on language.

The American Indian Movement (AIM) sought to end some of the poverty and health problems faced by Native Americans. The most dramatic AIM protest happened at Wounded Knee, where protesters occupied the area for 71 days. The government did very little to meet the protestors' demands, though later some concessions were made to Native Americans.

<b>The Civil Rights Movement Continues Guided Notes</b>	
What major advances in women's rights were enacted in the 1970s? (slide 1)	Feminists opened shelters for battered women. They fought for reform in laws that applied to employment discrimination, rape, and domestic violence. The 1973 Supreme Court decision in <i>Roe v. Wade</i> , which struck down anti-abortion laws, was a major accomplishment for feminists. Another important piece of legislation for women's rights was the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1973, which prohibited sex discrimination in education. The 1970s also saw more women being elected to political office.
What was the primary purpose of the Equal Rights Amendment? (slide 2)	
What was the outcome of the Equal Rights Amendment? (slide 2)	
Why was passage of the EEOA a victory for the Latino community? (slide 3)	
What two victories did Latinos accomplish in Miami, Florida in the 1970s? (slide 4)	
What is affirmative action and why was it so controversial in the 1970s? (slide 4)	

## The Civil Rights Movement Continues Guided Notes

What were some of the concerns of the American Indian Movement (AIM)? (slide 5)	
What happened at Alcatraz Island beginning on November 20, 1969? (slide 5)	
How did the federal government respond to the protestors at Wounded Knee? (slide 6)	
What concessions did the government eventually give Native Americans? (slide 6)	



## Unit Review – Key Words

Describe the following key words from The Vietnam War unit. Your descriptions should be as detailed as possible. Include names, dates, and relevant facts related to each key word. Be sure to explain why each person or term is important.

Remember to download and save this PDF before writing.

### The Presidency of Richard Nixon

Key Word	Description
Arab-Israeli War	The Arab-Israeli War was fought from October 6–25, 1973 between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria. It is also known as the Yom Kippur War, Ramadan War, and October War.
détente	
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)	
oil crisis	
Richard Nixon	
<i>United States v. Nixon</i>	
Watergate	

### The Vietnam War

Key Word	Description
draft	The draft was a compulsory enrollment and induction into military service.

Key Word	Description
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution	
Kent State	
My Lai Massacre (1968)	
Pentagon Papers	
Tet Offensive (1968)	
<i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i>	
Twenty-sixth Amendment	
Vietnamization	
War Powers Act	
war protests	

### The Presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter

Key Word	Description
Jimmy Carter	Jimmy Carter is an American politician from Georgia who served as the 39th President of the United States.
Community Reinvestment Act of 1977	
Gerald Ford	

Key Word	Description
Olympic boycott	

### More Social Changes

Key Word	Description
Clean Water Act	The Clean Water Act was a piece of federal legislation passed in 1972 aimed at maintaining the health of U.S. rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.
Endangered Species Act	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	
hippies	
Love Canal Disaster	
Three Mile Island accident	

### The Civil Rights Movement Continues

Key Word	Description
affirmative action	Affirmative action is a policy in which action is taken to improve educational and employment opportunities for groups that have long been victims of discrimination, especially minority groups and women.
Equal Rights Amendment (1972)	

Key Word	Description
Higher Education Act, Title IX (1972)	
<i>Regents of the University of California v. Bakke</i>	
<i>Roe v. Wade</i>	





## Unit Review – Key Questions

Before the unit assessment, answer the following key questions. Each question contains a tip to help you locate the material in the course. You may want to add your own note about the location of the information. Write the answers in your own words, and test your memory of each answer by covering the answer column while quizzing yourself. Remember that some content may be presented in a multimedia presentation, graphic, or other resource. Refer to the transcripts or text versions for written versions of that content.

Key Question / Location	Answer in your own words
List one foreign and one domestic policy achievement of the Nixon administration. (The Presidency of Richard Nixon)	In terms of domestic policy, Nixon created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in response to the many deaths in the unsafe workplaces. This administration ensures the health and safety of workers in both private and public workplaces. A successful foreign policy occurred when Nixon met with the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and discussed a policy of détente, a relaxation of tensions between their nations. They also signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT). The treaty limited each side to deploying only two antiballistic missile systems. It also limited the number of nuclear missiles maintained by each country.
What was the Watergate Scandal? (The Presidency of Richard Nixon)	
Why did the United States send troops to Vietnam? (The Vietnam War)	
What factors influenced anti-war sentiment during the Vietnam War? (The Vietnam War)	
What strategies did Gerald Ford use to address the worsening economy? (The Presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter)	

Key Question / Location	Answer in your own words
Describe Jimmy Carter’s biggest foreign policy success and his biggest foreign policy failure. (The Presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter)	
Why did the 1960s and 1970s see the passage of environmental legislation? (More Social Changes)	
What were some of the beliefs and practices of hippies? (More Social Changes)	
What were some significant gains of the Women’s Movement? (The Civil Rights Movement Continues)	
What were the goals of the Latino rights movement and the American Indian Movement? (The Civil Rights Movement Continues)	