

Vietnam: Geography, Culture, and The Second Indochina War

Grade Level

6-8

The artist in his or her environment

Curriculum Framework Emphasis

History

Reading and Literature

The Arts

Common Curriculum Goals

Social Sciences

- Historical Skills:
Understand, recognize, and interpret change and continuity over time.
- Understand relationships among events, issues, and developments in different spheres of human activity (i.e. economic, social, political, cultural).

Reading and Literature

Locate information and clarify meaning by skimming, scanning, close reading, and other reading strategies. Identify sequence of events, main ideas, facts, supporting details, and opinions in literary, informative, and practical selections.

Support personal responses and reactions to passage.

Make connections between the selection and issues of events in the community or world.

The Arts

Historical And Cultural Perspectives:

Understand how the arts can reflect the environment and personal experiences within a society or culture, and apply to one's own work.

Objectives

Locate Vietnam and Indochina.

Identify the basic cultural traits of the Vietnamese people.

Describe the events leading up to the start of the Vietnam War.

Describe the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War.

Understand citizens' right to protest and possible outcomes from protest.

Identify problems Vietnam veterans faced when they returned from the war.

Explain how experiences can affect the artwork produced by an artist.

Read and discuss different perspectives on the Vietnam War based upon literature.

Materials

Rick Bartow POAH videotape

Chart paper

Colored pencils

Novels and non-fiction books related to Vietnam and the Vietnam War (see list below)

Vocabulary

ally	Vietnam
communism	draft
protest	culture
memorial	casualty
Indochina	republic
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	

ACTIVITIES

Part A: Introduction to the unit and The Vietnam War (30 minutes)

1. Read aloud *Always to Remember* by Brent K. and Jennifer Ashabranner, a book that tells about the Vietnam War Memorial.
2. Create a large K-W-L chart on a large piece of paper in the classroom. Ask students what they already know about the Vietnam War in the K (Know) column on the chart. Further question students about what they want to know (W- Want to Know) about the war and record responses on the chart. Let students know that later we will return to the chart and record what we have learned (L - Learned) about the war through our studies in this unit.
3. Explain that we will be 1) Studying the geography and culture of the country of Vietnam; 2) Learning about the Vietnam War and the involvement of the United States in that war; 3) Reading books written about Vietnam and the Vietnam War; and 4) Learning about an Oregon artist, Rick Bartow, who was drafted to serve during the Vietnam War, and how his experiences have affected his artwork.

Part B: The Geography of Vietnam (45 – 60 minutes)

1. Using a variety of sources, students will create a map of Indochina which will identify and locate the following places: Countries: China, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Waterways: Gulf of Thailand, South China Sea, Gulf of Tonkin; Cities: Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Hanoi (Vietnam), Beijing (China), Vientiane (Laos), Bangkok (Thailand).
 - The map must also contain the following: compass rose, each country colored a different color, water colored blue, and other land areas on the map colored a neutral color, such as tan.

Part C: The Culture of Vietnam (Two, 45-minute sessions)

Students will learn about several cultural aspects of the Vietnamese people and create a large pie chart to display their learning.

1. Session 1
 - A. Arrange students into groups to research the following aspects of the Vietnamese culture: Religion, Art, Celebrations, Customs, Recreation, Food, Education, Lifestyles (farm life vs city life)
 - B. Students will research the assigned topic online at the following (or other) website(s):
ThinkQuest:<http://library.thinkquest.org/25734/h/people.html>
 - Direct students to take notes as they work for 25 minutes. Then return to the classroom where students will share collected information with others in their group for the rest of the session.
2. Session 2
 - A. Students will complete one illustration and one written page to display the information learned about their group's assigned topic.
 - Give one pie section from an enlarged 8-part pie chart to each group. (Create the chart ahead of time – a circle with a diameter of approximately 30 inches, divided into 8 sections. Cut the sections apart.)
 - Illustrate the pie section with a picture depicting something learned about the assigned cultural topic.

- Write a rough draft of the information learned about the topic on a piece of notebook paper.
- Edit the rough draft.
- Write a final copy of the cultural information on a sheet of white, unlined 8-1/2" x 11" paper. (May use lined paper behind white paper to write in straight lines.)
- Reassemble the chart pieces into a pie for a classroom display. Present the written information next to the correct pie section and title the display "Vietnam."

Part D: The Vietnam War (Two, 60-minute sessions)

1. Discuss the Vietnam War with students using any available reference materials, including student textbooks, encyclopedias, and online encyclopedias such as Wikipedia.

Suggestions for discussion:

- A. The events leading to the start of the Vietnam War
 - The First Indochina War (The French Indochina War) 1946 – 1954
 - The Geneva Conference: the separation of North and South Vietnam
 - South Korea leader's (Diem) refusal to uphold the agreement made in the Geneva Conference calling for talks between North and South Vietnam regarding the establishment of national elections, leading to the start of the Second Indochina War (The Vietnam War) in 1959.
 - What is communism?
- B. North Vietnam versus South Vietnam
 - Allied countries in the war (communist/non-communist)
 - Define "proxy war"
- C. United States' involvement in the war
 - US involvement in the First Indochina War
 - The Draft
 - Casualties
- D. Protests against the Vietnam War in the United States
 - Citizen's right to protest – the Bill of Rights
 - Protest marches
 - Burning draft cards
 - Protest songs
 - *Blowin' in the Wind* by Bob Dylan, *Fortunate Son* by Creedence Clearwater Revival, *I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die* by Country Joe McDonald, *Star Spangled Banner* by Jimi Hendrix, and *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* by Pete Seeger
- E. End of the war and Post War events
 - North Vietnam/Communism takes over all of Vietnam
 - Not all vets returned back to the United States at the same time
 - Veteran's not generally welcomed and honored upon returning home
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Drug and alcohol use and abuse
 - The Vietnam Memorial

Part E: Introduce Rick Bartow (60 minutes)

1. Introduce Rick Bartow, an Oregon artist. Rick Bartow was born and raised on the Oregon coast near Newport. His mother was Caucasian and her family was from Idaho. His father was of Native American

descent, from the Yurok tribe. His father died when he was 5 years old, and his aunt, a teacher and the first person in his family to earn a college degree, kept him busy during that time with art projects and supplies. He eventually decided to become a teacher and after college was drafted into the Vietnam War. He served in Vietnam from 1969 until 1971, and returned home with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He became an alcoholic and fell into a deep depression. He married and divorced. He began to start drawing again with graphite and paper, the only supplies he could afford. His artwork became a therapeutic way to work through his depression and into sobriety. Encouraged by his 2nd wife and others, he became a professional artist and continues to produce powerful and emotional works of art that often portray layered images of animals and people.

2. Watch the Rick Bartow video. Consider the age level of students when viewing the video and edit as necessary. Some images may not be appropriate for all ages.
3. Discussion questions:
 - How was Rick Bartow affected by being drafted into the Vietnam War?
 - How long was he serving in Vietnam?
 - How did he feel when he returned to the United States? How do you know?
 - How did his experiences affect his artwork?
 - What other experiences did the artist have which affected his artwork? How?

Part F: Literature Study

1. Present a selection of novels and non-fiction books to the class, related to Vietnam and the Vietnam War. Some suggestions follow in the chart below.
2. Students select a book to read and chart a reading plan to complete the book in a period of two weeks, meeting with the teacher one time at the end of the first week to discuss progress.
3. At the end of the two-week reading period, each student will write a book summary which will include the following:
 - Book title
 - Author's name
 - Main characters' names and descriptions
 - Setting(s)
 - Book summary, describing the sequence of events
 - Personal opinion of the book, supported by reasons
 - A colored illustration related to an event in the story

Bind completed book summaries using mat board for the front and back covers, and glue student illustrations to the front cover.

4. When book summaries are complete, provide each student with a list of all of the books read by students and hold a Book Talk, in which students sit in chairs in a circle and give a brief summary of the books read. Allow extra time at the end of the Book Talk for students to personally review the book summaries and make notes about books that they are interested in reading independently in the future.

Title	Author	Lexile	Pages	Description
<i>10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War</i>	Philip Caputo	1210	118	History of the Vietnam War.
<i>Almost Forever</i>	Maria Testa	not rated	69	A young girl describes what she, her brother, and their mother do during the year that her doctor father is serving in the Army in Vietnam.
<i>Dove Song</i>	Kristine L. Franklin	590	190	Bobbie Lynn's father is missing in Vietnam, she and her brother must learn to cope as well as their mom's breakdown.
<i>Escape From Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American</i>	Andrea Warren	930	98	Chronicles the experiences of an orphaned Amerasian boy from his birth and early childhood in Saigon through his departure from Vietnam in the 1975 Operation Babylift and his subsequent life as the adopted son of an American family in Ohio.
<i>Ho Chi Minh</i>	Philip Steele	not rated	64	A biography of the Vietnamese leader who led his people in the struggle for independence from France and in the subsequent war with South Vietnam and the United States.
<i>I Remember Vietnam</i>	Jo Matthews	540	32	Han, a child from Vietnam, who now lives in the West, describes the customs, people, and way of life of his homeland.
<i>The Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty: United States Marine</i>	Ellen Emerson White	760	229	An eighteen-year-old Marine records in a journal his experiences in Vietnam during the siege of Khe Sanh.
<i>Leaving Vietnam: The Journey of Tuan Ngo, a Boat Boy</i>	Sarah S. Kilborne	not rated	48	Tells the story of a boy and his father who endure danger and difficulties when they escape by boat from Vietnam, spend days at sea, and then months in refugee camps before making their way to the United States.
<i>Letters From Wolfie</i>	Patti Sherlock	760	229	Certain that he is doing the right thing by donating his dog, Wolfie, to the Army's scout program in Vietnam, thirteen-year-old Mark begins to have second thoughts when the Army refuses to say when and if Wolfie will ever return.
<i>Onion Tears</i>	Diana Kidd	780	62	A little Vietnamese girl tries to come to terms with her grief over the loss of her family and her new life with the Australian family with whom she lives.
<i>Park's Quest</i>	Katherine Paterson	710	144	Eleven-year-old Park makes some startling discoveries when he travels to his grandfather's farm in Virginia to learn about his father who died in the Vietnam War.
<i>Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam</i>	Walter Dean Myers	280	30	A frightened American soldier faces combat in the lush forests of Vietnam.
<i>A Place Called Heartbreak: A Story of Vietnam</i>	Walter Dean Myers	700	66	Story of an African American military officer who spent 7 years as a POW in Vietnam.
<i>Ron Kovic</i>	Nathanial Moss	not rated	111	A biography of the young veteran who wrote of his struggle to create a meaningful life after being crippled during the Vietnam War.
<i>Summer's End</i>	Audrey Coulombis	not rated	184	Three teenaged cousins worry about their uncle who is missing in Vietnam, their brothers--the one who was drafted and the two who are dodging the draft, and the effects of their absence on the four generations gathered at the family farm in the summer of 1965.
<i>Vero and Philippe</i>	Caroline Hatton	not rated	120	When Mother fires the housekeeper life becomes difficult for the entire Vo family, Vietnamese immigrants to France in 1964, but eight-year-old Vero and her twelve-year-old brother, Philippe, work together to try to convince Mother to rehire her.
<i>Water Buffalo Days: Growing up in Vietnam</i>	Huynh Quang Nhuong	1120	118	Growing up in Vietnam.
<i>Where Have All the Flowers Gone? The Diary of Molly Macken</i>	Ellen Emerson White	930	169	In 1968 Massachusetts, after her brother Patrick goes to fight in Vietnam, Molly records in her diary how she misses him, volunteers at the Veteran's Hospital and tries to make sense of the war.
<i>The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam</i>	Huynh Quang Nugong	1090	128	A collection of personal reminiscences of the author's youth in a hamlet on the central highlands of Vietnam.

Part G: K-W-L Chart Completion

1. Return to the K-W-L Chart originally created. Complete the L (Learned) column aloud with students.

References

Websites

Flintridge Foundation, Rick Bartow, Southbeach, OR: http://www.flintridgefoundation.org/visualarts/recipients20012002_rickbartow.html

POAH Online: Rick Bartow: http://www.poahonline.org/bio_bartow.html

Froelick Gallery: <http://www.froelickgallery.com>

A Time of Visions: Interviews By Larry Abbott: http://www.britesites.com/native_artist_interviews/rbartow.htm

Davis and Cline Galleries: <http://www.davisandcline.com>

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Indochina_War

ThinkQuest: <http://library.thinkquest.org>

Vocabulary Definitions

ally - a person, group, or nation that is associated with another or others for some common cause or purpose: Canada and the United States were allies in World War II.

casualty - a member of the armed forces lost to service through death, wounds, sickness, capture, or because his or her whereabouts or condition cannot be determined.

communism - a theory or system of social organization based on the holding of all property in common, actual ownership being ascribed to the community as whole or to the state.

culture - the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group:

draft - a selection or drawing of persons, by lot or otherwise, from the general body of the people for military service; levy; conscription.

Indochina - a peninsula in SE Asia, between the Bay of Bengal and the South China Sea, comprising Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, W Malaysia, and Burma (Myanmar).

memorial - something designed to preserve the memory of a person, event, etc., as a monument or a holiday.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - A psychological disorder affecting individuals who have experienced or witnessed profoundly traumatic events, such as torture, murder, rape, or wartime combat, characterized by recurrent flashbacks of the traumatic event, nightmares, irritability, anxiety, fatigue, forgetfulness, and social withdrawal.

protest - an expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent, often in opposition to something a person is powerless to prevent or avoid.

republic - a state in which the supreme power rests in the body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by representatives chosen directly or indirectly by them.

Vietnam - Official name, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. a country in SE Asia, comprising the former states of Annam, Tonkin, and Cochin-China: formerly part of French Indochina; divided into North Vietnam and South Vietnam during the Vietnam War but now reunified.