

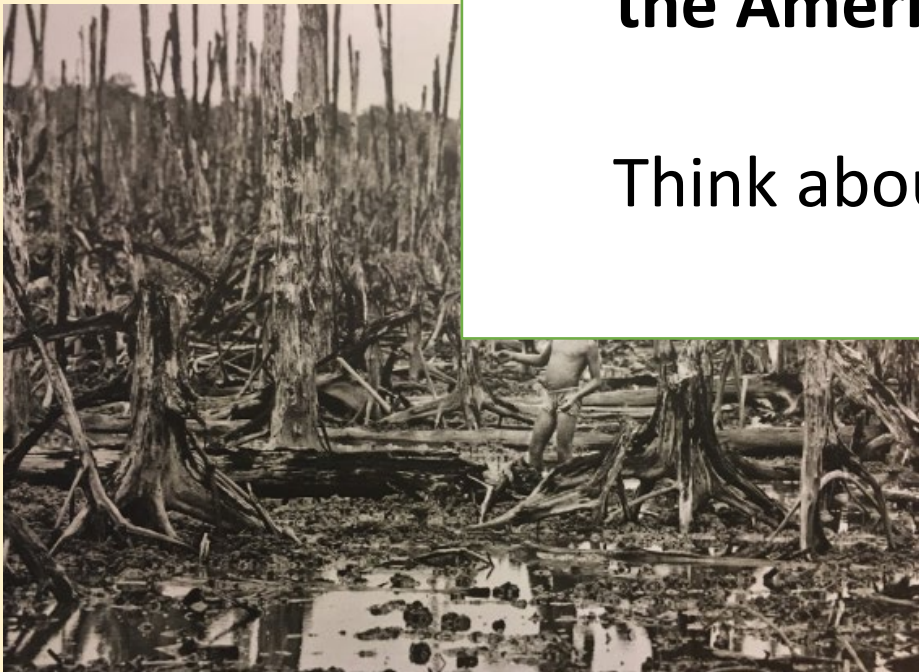


## BRAIN IN GEAR



What do these pictures tell you about the **way**  
the **American Army** fought in Vietnam?

Think about – weapons, tactics, strategy







## Fundamental British Values: Respect and Tolerance

09/12/2020

Today's Title:

# How did America plan to win the Vietnam War?

Previous lesson:

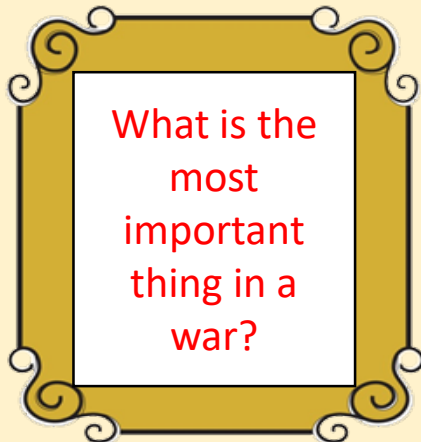
Why was the USA interested  
in Vietnam?

This lesson:

How did the USA plan  
to win?

Next lesson:

How did the Vietcong plan  
to win?



Learning Outcomes:

- **Describe** the US battle plan
- **Analyse** the effectiveness of the plan
- **Evaluate** the strengths and weaknesses of the plan

Key Words:

**Objective** – The overall aim or goal  
**Strategy** – The plan of action to achieve your objective  
**Tactics** – The actions you use in your plan

# USA vs Vietnam

On paper, the US should easily crush North Vietnam.

America was massively more powerful than North Vietnam with an enormously bigger and stronger army.

However, the US found it very difficult to fight in Vietnam and spent years trying (and failing) to take control.

# Match the word to the definition:

**1) Objective**

A) The **actions** you use in your plan

**2) Strategy**

B) The **plan** of action to achieve your objective

**3) Tactics**

C) The overall aim or **goal**

Challenge: Explain the difference between your strategy and your tactics

# How the Vietnamese War was fought

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Objective

Strategy

Tactics

THE VIET CONG

Objective

Strategy

Tactics

Build support in South Vietnam so that more people will fight against America to join North and South Vietnam together again.

- Bomb North Vietnam to pieces
- Use “search and destroy” missions to find hidden Viet Cong
- Use weapons to destroy the jungle so the North Vietnamese can't hide.
- Build trust with South Vietnamese

- Convince South Vietnamese people to resist the USA.
- Make it so difficult for the USA that they leave the country
- Never give up, no matter what.

- Avoid big, open battles
- Use ambushes and attack at night
- Set traps for the US soldiers
- Never fight when outnumbered
- Build support in South Vietnamese villages

Keep control over South Vietnam and keep communists out. Keep the South Vietnamese on their side.

- Force North Vietnam to give up
- Keep the South Vietnamese on side
- Remove Viet Cong soldiers from South Vietnam

## Objective - VC

Build support in South Vietnam so that more people will fight against America to join North and South Vietnam together again.

## Tactics - US

- Bomb North Vietnam to pieces
- Use "search and destroy" missions to find hidden Viet Cong
- Use weapons to destroy the jungle so the North Vietnamese can't hide.
- Build trust with South Vietnamese

## Strategy - VC

- Convince South Vietnamese people to resist the USA.
- Make it so difficult for the USA that they leave the country
- Never give up, no matter what.

## Tactics - VC

- Avoid big, open battles
- Use ambushes and attack at night
- Set traps for the US soldiers
- Never fight when outnumbered
- Build support in South Vietnamese villages

## Objective - US

Keep control over South Vietnam and keep communists out. Keep the South Vietnamese on their side.

## Strategy - US

- Force North Vietnam to give up
- Keep the South Vietnamese on side
- Remove Viet Cong soldiers from South Vietnam



Write one sentence in your books:

**Which side has the best plan? Why?**

# Americas Biggest Problem

North Vietnam had two powerful friends... Russia and China.

America knew that if it fought TOO hard in Vietnam then Russia and China would see it as “unfair” and they could join the war.

This could lead to a **third world war** and nobody wanted that.

Therefore **the USA is fighting with one hand tied behind it's back**. It can't be too aggressive or too brutal in case China or Russia decide to join.



Complete the tactics table using the information sheets! Rate how effective each tactic was.

**CHALLENGE:**

Which tactic was most effective?

Write a paragraph using evidence.

**SUPER CHALLENGE:**

What do these tactics tell you about the way the Vietnamese were fighting?

## US Military tactics

Briefly outline the objectives of the US and ARVN.

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Pro's</b>	<b>Con's</b>
Operation Rolling Thunder			
Cluster Bombs			
Napalm			
Defoliants			
Airmobility			
Search and Destroy			

Which do you think is the **most effective** tactic used against the Vietnamese? Why?

**Search and  
Destroy**

**Operation  
Rolling  
Thunder**

**Napalm**

**Defoliants**

**Cluster Bombs**

**Air Mobility**

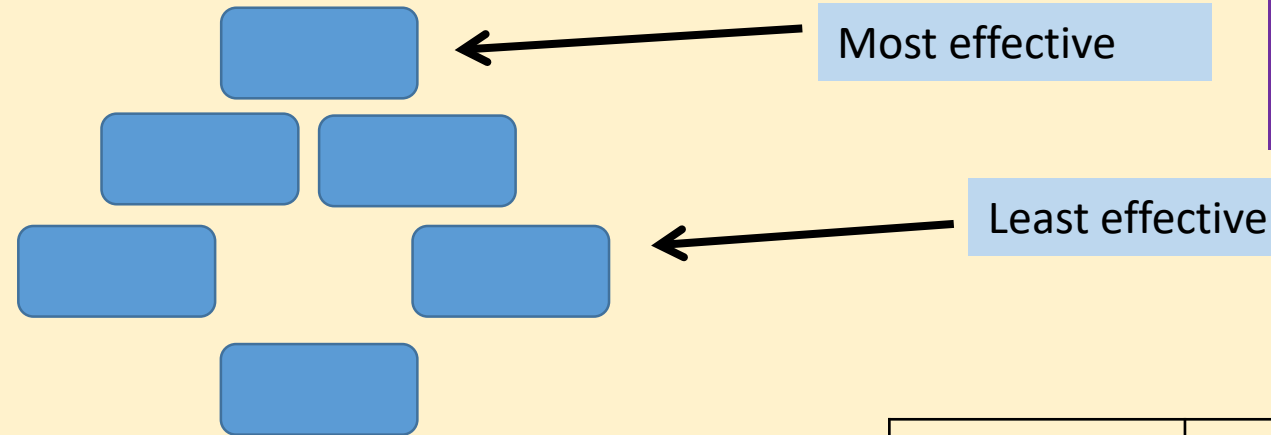
# Judgment time!

## CHALLENGE:

Write a paragraph that compares two tactics.

Why is one more effective than the other?

Arrange your tactics in a 'diamond' six



The most effective US tactic was..... This is because.....

The least effective US tactic was..... This is because.....

Operation rolling thunder	Napalm	Cluster bombs
Search and Destroy missions	Air mobility	Agent Orange

## Explain the tactics used during the Vietnam War. (12 marks)

To answer this you might write three paragraphs, one about the US tactics, one about the North Vietnamese tactics and one about the South Vietnamese tactics. We are just going to write one paragraph focusing on the Americans.

*“The US Army used a number of different tactics. One example is... This was... A consequence of this was... Another example of US tactics is... (explain, analyse) A final example... (explain, analyse)”*

Aim to include three examples of tactics, each one explained using a **second order concept phrase**.

### Second Order Concept phrases:

“This **caused**...”

“As a **consequence**...”

“This was **significant** because...”

“...was **similar** to...”

“...was **different** to...”

“This showed a **change** because...”

“This **stayed the same** because...”