

SECTION 4 Step-by-Step Instruction

Objectives

As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.

- Describe events in Indochina after World War II.
- Learn how America entered the Vietnam War.
- Understand how the Vietnam War ended.
- Analyze Southeast Asia after the war.


Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge L3

Inform students that from 1954 to 1975 Vietnam was divided into two separate states. Ask students to recall other nations that were divided during this same period (*Germany, Korea*) and the reasons for those divisions.

Set a Purpose L3

- **WITNESS HISTORY** Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

 **Witness History Audio CD,**
America's Role in Vietnam

Ask **What is the main idea of President Kennedy's comment?** (*He believed that civil wars could only be won by the people within a nation, not with outside forces.*)

- **Focus** Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (*Answer appears with Section 4 Assessment answers.*)
- **Preview** Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.
- **Note Taking** Have students read this section using the Guided Questioning strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the chart summarizing events connected to the wars in Southeast Asia.

 **Reading and Note Taking Study Guide,** p. 196

SECTION 4



A family watches President Kennedy speak on television.

U.S. military helicopter in Vietnam



WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

America's Role in Vietnam

In a television interview on September 2, 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy referred to U.S. support for the noncommunist government of South Vietnam. He did not foresee that five years later, more than 500,000 Americans would be fighting a bloody and divisive war there.

“I don't think that unless a greater effort is made by the Government to win popular support that the war can be won out there. . . . We can help them, we can give them equipment, we can send our men out there as advisors, but they have to win it, the people of Viet-nam, against the Communists.**”**

Focus Question What were the causes and effects of war in Southeast Asia, and what was the American role in this region?

War in Southeast Asia

Objectives

- Describe events in Indochina after World War II.
- Learn how America entered the Vietnam War.
- Understand how the Vietnam War ended.
- Analyze Southeast Asia after the war.

Terms, People, and Places

guerrillas	Viet Cong
Ho Chi Minh	Tet Offensive
Dienbienphu	Khmer Rouge
domino theory	Pol Pot

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Summarize Complete a chart like the one below to summarize the events connected to the wars in Southeast Asia.

War in Southeast Asia		
Indochina After World War II	Vietnam War	Aftereffects of War
•	•	•

• Southeast Asia's wars were, for many local participants, nationalist struggles against foreign domination. Like Korea, however, Southeast Asia eventually played a part in the global Cold War.

Indochina After World War II


• In mainland Southeast Asia after World War II, an agonizing liberation struggle tore apart the region once known as French Indochina. The nearly 30-year conflict had two major phases. First was the war against the French, dating from 1946 to 1954. Second was the Cold War conflict that involved the United States and raged from 1955 to 1975.

• **Indochina Under Foreign Rule** The eastern part of mainland Southeast Asia, or Indochina, was conquered by the French during the 1800s. The Japanese overran Indochina during World War II, but faced fierce resistance, especially in Vietnam, from local **guerrillas** (guh RIL uz), or small groups of loosely organized soldiers making surprise raids. The guerrillas, determined to be free of all foreign rule, turned their guns on the European colonialists who returned after the war. The guerrillas were strongly influenced by communist opposition to European colonial powers.

• **Ho Chi Minh Fights the French** After the Japanese were defeated, the French set out in 1946 to re-establish their authority in Indochina. In Vietnam, they faced guerrilla forces led by

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

 **Teaching Resources, Unit 5, p. 7; Teaching Resources, Skills Handbook, p. 3**

High-Use Word
terminate, p. 634

Definition and Sample Sentence

vt. to finish, bring to an end
His job was **terminated** when his manager realized that he'd been stealing.

Ho Chi Minh (hoh chee min). Ho was a nationalist and communist who had fought the Japanese. He then fought the French in what is known as the First Indochina War. An unexpected Vietnamese victory at the bloody battle of **Dienbienphu** (dyeen byen foo) in 1954 convinced the French to leave Vietnam. Cambodia and Laos had meanwhile gained their independence separately.

Vietnam Is Divided After 1954, however, the struggle for Vietnam became part of the Cold War. At an international conference that year, Western and communist powers agreed to a temporary division of Vietnam. Ho's communists controlled North Vietnam. A noncommunist government led by Ngo Dinh Diem (ngoh din dee EM), supported by the United States, ruled South Vietnam. The agreement called for elections to reunite the two Vietnams. These elections were never held, largely because the Americans and Ngo Dinh Diem feared that the Communists would win.

Some South Vietnamese preferred Ho Chi Minh, a national hero, to the South Vietnamese government backed by the United States, a foreign power. But Ho's communist rule in the North alienated some Vietnamese. Many Catholic and pro-French Vietnamese fled to the south.

The United States supported Ngo Dinh Diem's regime against what American leaders saw as the communist threat from North Vietnam. Meanwhile, Ngo Dinh Diem's dictatorial regime alienated many Vietnamese with its corruption and brutal tactics against political opponents.

By the early 1960s, communist guerrilla fighters had appeared in the jungles of South Vietnam. Many of them were South Vietnamese, but they received strong support from the north. Many saw their fight as a nationalist struggle to liberate Vietnam from foreign domination.

Checkpoint Why did Vietnamese guerrillas fight the French in Indochina?

America Enters the Vietnam War

American foreign policy planners saw the situation in Vietnam as part of the global Cold War. They developed the **domino theory**—the view that a communist victory in South Vietnam would cause noncommunist governments across Southeast Asia to fall to communism, like a row of dominoes. America's leaders wanted to prevent this from happening.

The War Intensifies Ho Chi Minh remained determined to unite Vietnam under communist rule. He continued to aid the National Liberation Front, or **Viet Cong**, the communist rebels trying to overthrow South Vietnam's government. At first, the United States sent only supplies and military advisors to South Vietnam. Later, it sent thousands of troops, turning a local struggle into a major Cold War conflict.

BIOGRAPHY

Ho Chi Minh

Ho Chi Minh (1890–1969) was born in central Vietnam at a time when Vietnam was under French colonial control. Ho discovered communism while working abroad and quickly adapted it to his struggle against French rule back in Vietnam. While Soviet communism gave a leading role to urban workers, Ho saw rural peasants as the driving force behind a successful revolution. Ho was more interested in national liberation than following a Soviet communist model. As president of North Vietnam, he led his people first against French control and later against the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government. **How did Ho Chi Minh's approach to communism differ from the Soviet model?**



Teach

Indochina After World War II

L3

Instruct

- **Introduce** Write the term *nationalist* on the board and review its meaning, as discussed in Section 3. Explain that nationalism fueled the desire of Southeast Asia's people to fight foreign powers for control. In the context of the Cold War, what problems do students think might result from this desire?
- **Teach** Write the date *1954* on the board. Trace events of conflict in Southeast Asia before and after this date. Ask **Why was Ho Chi Minh fighting the French in Vietnam?** (*He wanted them to leave and allow Vietnam independence. He wanted to make Vietnam a communist country.*) **Why and how was Vietnam divided after 1954?** (*Vietnam was divided by world nations after the French left in 1954. Communists in the North struggled for control with anti-communists in the South. The Soviet Union and United States each supported the groups that shared their own ideologies.*)
- **Quick Activity** Have students read the biography of Ho Chi Minh in the text. Then in groups, have them discuss the following question: *Why do you think that revolutions are so often led by passionate nationalists?*

Independent Practice

To help students better understand the unfolding conflict in Vietnam, have them create a timeline of events covered in this section. For additional guidance, refer them to the information on the board.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in their charts, circulate to make sure they understand the events connected to the wars in Southeast Asia. For a completed version of the chart, see

Note Taking Transparencies, 192

Answers

BIOGRAPHY He shifted the focus from urban workers to rural peasants and focused on national liberation.

- ✓ Vietnamese guerillas fought the French in an effort to win independence.

Differentiated

Instruction Solutions for All Learners

- L1 Special Needs
- L2 Less Proficient Readers
- L2 English Language Learners

Remind students that the struggle in Vietnam was a local conflict that developed into a global one. To help students better understand the competition for influence in Vietnam, have them make a concept map of this idea. Have them read the headings, visuals, and captions for information. Then ask them to explain to a partner why the United States became involved in Vietnam.

Use the following resources to help students acquire basic skills.

Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide

- Adapted Note Taking Study Guide, p. 196
- Adapted Section Summary, p. 197

America Enters the Vietnam War

L3

Instruct

- **Introduce: Key Terms** Have students locate the key term *domino theory* (in blue) in the text. If possible, demonstrate its meaning for students with actual dominoes. Point out that due to this theory, the United States invested enormous resources in Vietnam.
- **Teach** Discuss the turning points and the key issues in the early part of the Vietnam War. Ask **What happened at the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964?** (*The North Vietnamese attacked a U.S. Navy destroyer that they thought had assisted South Vietnamese raids nearby. The North Vietnamese may have attacked again three days later, but this is uncertain. President Johnson told Congress that the destroyer had been attacked twice, without mentioning the South Vietnamese raids.*) **What advantage did the Vietcong have over American troops?** (*They knew the countryside and often had the support of the local population.*)
- **Quick Activity** Discuss the Infographic with students. Have them review the images and read the captions. Play the accompanying audio. Ask students to describe what it might be like to fight a war in the jungle. Then ask students to use the map to explain the domino theory. (*The domino theory asserted that if South Vietnam fell to communism, Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos would, one by one, follow suit.*)

 AUDIO **Witness History Audio CD, The Vietnam War**

Independent Practice

Direct students to the text on the next page that describes the American military draft during the Vietnam War. Review the opposing viewpoints about it. Have students write a short persuasive paragraph arguing for or against a draft in the United States.

Monitor Progress

As students write their paragraphs, check that their answers include a clearly stated opinion and evidence to support that opinion.

INFOGRAPHIC

THE VIETNAM WAR

The Vietnam War thrust American soldiers into an alien and dangerous environment of jungles and swamps. The Viet Cong guerrillas were often local villagers, so it was hard for American soldiers to tell friend from foe. Local guerrillas' knowledge of the land allowed them to hide behind vegetation

or behind the earthen banks of canals before a surprise ambush. The map at the right shows how North Vietnam delivered supplies to the Viet Cong in South Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. These supply lines and the Viet Cong's knowledge of the land made the Viet Cong a deadly foe, even against the better-equipped American forces.

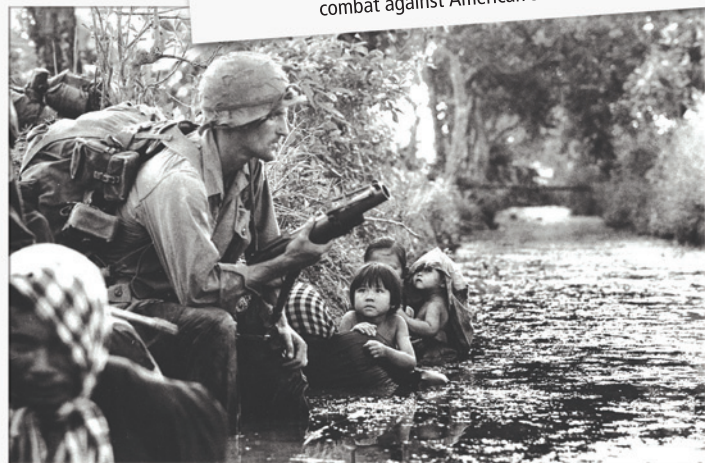
 AUDIO



▲ This 1966 calendar may have belonged to one of the 58,000 American soldiers killed in the Vietnam War. It was left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., by a visitor.



Viet Cong guerrillas train in a ditch for combat against American soldiers.



An American soldier sits on the bank of a canal during a skirmish with Viet Cong snipers. Vietnamese children are clinging to their mothers nearby, trying to stay low to avoid gunfire.

On August 1, 1964, South Vietnamese commandos conducted raids on North Vietnamese islands in the Gulf of Tonkin. The following day, the North Vietnamese attacked a nearby U.S. Navy destroyer, the *Maddox*, which they mistakenly believed had assisted the South Vietnamese raids. Three days later, sailors on the *Maddox* thought that they had been attacked a second time, although it seems likely that their sonar and radar equipment were malfunctioning due to heavy seas.

U.S. President Johnson reported the attacks to Congress without mentioning the South Vietnamese raids or the doubts about the second attack. Believing that the attacks had been unprovoked, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7, 1964. The resolution authorized the President to take all necessary measures to prevent further aggression in Southeast Asia.

After the resolution passed, the United States began bombing targets in North Vietnam. Eventually, more than 500,000 American troops were committed to the war. At the same time, both the Soviet Union and China sent aid—but no troops—to help North Vietnam.

Differentiated

Instruction Solutions for All Learners

L1 Special Needs L2 Less Proficient Readers

Have visual learners use the images on these pages to learn more about the conditions in the Vietnam War. Ask volunteers to describe what is occurring in each visual and to read aloud the caption. Then ask

students to list the advantages the Viet Cong had (*Sample: They knew the terrain and were friendly with the local villagers.*)



▲ This American soldier is patrolling a swamp in the Mekong Delta in the summer of 1969.

The Vietnam War, 1968–1975



Thinking Critically

- Map Skills** Based on the map and the accompanying text, why might the United States have wanted to attack targets in Cambodia?
- Draw Conclusions** How did Vietnam's geography and landscape create disadvantages for U.S. forces?

The Vietnam War Ends 13

Instruct

- **Introduce** Write the following quotation on the board: *“I want to get out, but I don’t want to give up.”* Tell students that as the nation’s involvement in Vietnam expanded, Americans became fiercely divided about the war. Have students recall what they have learned about America’s many wars. Ask **Why would Americans find it hard to give up in a war?** (*They had seldom lost one.*)
- **Teach** Review the problems the U.S. military had in Vietnam and trace the growing division of views at home. Ask **Why did many Americans come to oppose United States involvement in the Vietnam War?** (*Many Americans had been killed, taken prisoner, or were missing, yet the United States military seemed to be making little progress.*) **Why and how did United States involvement end?** (*It ended because of increasing opposition at home and limited success on the battlefield. The United States agreed to withdraw and left the Vietnamese to resolve their differences.*)

Independent Practice

Ask students to write a paragraph summarizing the events at the end of the Vietnam War.

Monitor Progress

To help students review the section so far, ask them to explain why the Vietnam War was so painful for many Americans.

Answers

Thinking Critically

- to halt further advances of troops and supplies from North Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and to be able to attack Vietnam from the west
- It was difficult to distinguish Viet Cong guerrillas from local villagers; swamps and dense vegetation made it easy for guerrillas, who were more familiar with the land, to hide and lie in ambush.

During the Vietnam era, young American men were required to register for the military draft. Men were then selected for the draft in a random lottery. Many saw fighting for their country as their patriotic duty. However, to avoid being drafted, some military-age American men left the country and sought refuge in other nations not involved in the war.

Guerrilla War Like the French in Vietnam, America faced a guerrilla war. The rebels in South Vietnam tended to be local peasants. They thus knew the countryside much better than their American enemies. They also knew the local people. Villagers frequently offered them safe haven against foreign troops. The close connections between guerrilla fighters and the villagers turned the Vietnamese villages themselves into military targets. Supplies for the guerrillas came from the north, following trails that wound through the jungles of neighboring Cambodia and Laos. In response, American aircraft and ground troops crossed the borders of these nations, drawing them into the war.

The Tet Offensive Despite massive American support, South Vietnam failed to defeat the communist guerrillas and their North Vietnamese allies. In 1968, guerrilla forces came out of the jungles and attacked American and South Vietnamese forces in cities all across the south. The assault was unexpected because it took place during Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. The communists lost many of their best troops and did not

History Background

A Turning Point Despite huge casualties, the Tet Offensive turned the tide for North Vietnam. Communist forces attacked some 100 cities and military bases, including the embassy in Saigon. The battle convinced the American public that the war could not continue at current levels. Soon after, President Johnson announced he would not run for re-election.

When General William Westmoreland requested 206,000 additional troops, Johnson refused and declared that bombing north of the 20th parallel would cease. This opened the way for negotiations with Hanoi. By October, peace talks were under way, although a cease fire would be still be five years away.

Southeast Asia After the War

L3

Instruct

- **Introduce** Remind students that after American withdrawal, Vietnam fell under communist rule. Over time, this communist rule extended to neighboring Cambodia. Ask students what they think it would be like to live under communist rule.
- **Teach** Review the brutal reign of Pol Pot with students. Ask **Why do you think Pol Pot was willing to kill his own people?** (*He was a dictator. He believed in removing all opposition to his views. He believed in removing Western influences.*) **How did communist rule affect Cambodia? How did it affect Vietnam?** (*In Cambodia, it led to brutal terror by Pol Pot and to the murder of more than a million Cambodians. In Vietnam, it led to a flood of refugees and persistent poverty.*)
- **Quick Activity** Have students return to the domino theory. In groups, ask them to explain its outcome in Southeast Asia.

Independent Practice

Assign small groups the following countries: China, Korea, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Then ask each group to create a list of how their country became involved in the Cold War. Rearrange the small groups so there is an “expert” on each country in each group. Have students take turns teaching about their area of expertise. Then as a class, make a master list.

Monitor Progress

Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.



Peace Necklace

The peace sign on this necklace was a popular symbol of protest against the Vietnam War.

Vocabulary Builder

terminate—(TUR mih nayt) *vt.* finish, bring to an end

hold any cities against American counterattacks. Nevertheless, the bloody **Tet Offensive** marked a turning point in public opinion in the United States.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did the domino theory lead the United States to send troops to Vietnam?

The Vietnam War Ends

As the fighting continued, civilian deaths caused by the bombing of North Vietnam and growing American casualties inflamed antiwar opinion in the United States. Growing numbers of American troops were prisoners of war (POWs) or missing in action (MIAs). Some Americans began to think that the Vietnam War was a quagmire, or swamp, in which the United States was becoming more and more bogged down.

More Americans Oppose the War As the war continued, the nation became deeply and bitterly divided over the ongoing struggle. Many Americans of all ages continued to support the war effort in Vietnam. Others wanted to end the loss of lives. More and more young people turned out for massive street demonstrations, all part of a growing antiwar movement. It was clear that an increasing number of Americans wanted no more “body bags” coming back or television footage of burned Vietnamese villages. At the same time, many agreed with a housewife who said, “I want to get out, but I don’t want to give up.”

America Withdraws In the end, American leaders decided that they had to get out of Vietnam. Faced with conflict at home and abroad, President Lyndon Johnson, who had presided over the massive expansion of the war in the 1960s, decided not to run for a second term. Johnson also opened peace talks with North Vietnam in Paris.

Although American troops had seldom lost a battle in the long struggle, they had not destroyed the Vietnamese Communists’ determination to keep fighting. Johnson’s successor, President Nixon, came under increasing pressure to **terminate** American involvement. Nixon finally negotiated the Paris Peace Accord in January 1973. This agreement established a cease-fire, or a halt in fighting. The United States agreed to withdraw its troops, and North Vietnam agreed not to send any more troops into the South. The accord left South Vietnam to determine its own future and set a goal of peaceful reunification with the North.

North Vietnam Wins the War Two years after American troops had withdrawn from the country, the North Vietnamese conquered South Vietnam. The South Vietnamese capital, Saigon, was renamed Ho Chi Minh City in 1976 in honor of the late leader. The North Vietnamese capital, Hanoi, became the capital of the reunited nation.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** Why did the United States withdraw its troops from Vietnam?

Southeast Asia After the War

After the American withdrawal from Vietnam, some dominos did fall. Both Cambodia and Laos ended up with governments dominated by Communist Vietnam. However, the falling dominos stopped at the

Answers

- ✓ The United States believed that a communist victory in South Vietnam would cause communism to spread across Southeast Asia. The United States entered the Vietnam War to prevent this.
- ✓ The United States withdrew from Vietnam because it wasn’t winning and it faced tremendous pressure from citizens at home who opposed American involvement in the war.

Link to Government

Limits on the Office of the President In the 1970s, the legacy of Vietnam was fresh in the minds of many U.S. citizens. Most of the blame for the war fell on the presidents who perpetuated it. Then the Watergate scandal occurred. Many Americans, including legislators, decided that the presidency had to change. Starting in 1973, Congress approved legisla-

tion that would weaken and check the president’s power. The War Powers Act of 1973 limited a president’s ability to use military forces overseas. The Arms Export Control Act took away a president’s previous ability to supply arms to other countries. Congress also took a greater role in overseeing such agencies as the FBI and CIA.

former borders of French Indochina. Other parts of Southeast Asia remained thoroughly capitalist, if less than democratic.

Tragedy in Cambodia During the Vietnam War, fighting had spilled over into neighboring Cambodia. In 1970, the United States bombed North Vietnamese supply routes in Cambodia and then briefly invaded the country. Afterwards, the **Khmer Rouge** (kuh MEHR roozh), a force of Cambodian communist guerrillas, gained ground in Cambodia. Finally, in 1975, the Khmer Rouge overthrew the Cambodian government.

Led by the brutal dictator **Pol Pot**, the Khmer Rouge unleashed a reign of terror. To destroy all Western influences, they drove people from the cities and forced them to work in the fields. They slaughtered, starved, or worked to death more than a million Cambodians, about a third of the population.

In the end, it took a Vietnamese invasion to drive Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge back into the jungle. Vietnam imposed an authoritarian government on Cambodia, but they at least ended the genocide.

Vietnam Under the Communists In the newly reunited Vietnam, the communist victors imposed a harsh rule of their own on the south. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese fled their country, most in small boats. Many of these “boat people” drowned. Survivors landed in refugee camps in neighboring countries. Eventually, some settled in the United States. Meanwhile, Vietnam had to rebuild a land destroyed by war. Recovery was slow due to a lack of resources and an American-led embargo, or blockage of trade. For years, the country remained mired in poverty.

Checkpoint How did communist Vietnam dominate parts of Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War?



Fleeing Communist Control

These South Vietnamese refugees are fleeing their country after communist forces took control in April 1975. Refugees who fled in small boats like this one were known as “boat people.” *Why might people choose to flee across the open ocean in a small boat like this one?*

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: nba-3041

Writing About History

Quick Write: Write a Supporting Paragraph To write a problem-solution essay, you need to provide arguments to support a proposed solution to a problem. In this section, an American was quoted as wanting to “get out” of South Vietnam without giving up on it. Write a thesis statement proposing a way to do this. Based on the text or your own ideas, write a paragraph with arguments supporting your thesis statement.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress

L3

- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz.

All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 5, p. 5

- To further assess student understanding, use
 - Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 131**

Reteach

If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.

Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 197

L3

Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 197

L1

L2

Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 197

L2

Extend

L4

Return to the Witness History quotation. Ask students to write a short paragraph explaining how America’s involvement in the Vietnam War supports or contradicts President Kennedy’s view.

Answers

Caption They were desperate to escape communist rule.

- ✓ Communist Vietnam invaded and dominated both Cambodia and Laos after the Vietnam War.

Section 4 Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Summarize** Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: What were the causes and effects of war in Southeast Asia, and what was the American role in this region?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Draw Conclusions** Why did the French withdraw from Indochina in the 1950s?
4. **Summarize** How did a local struggle in Vietnam become a major Cold War conflict?
5. **Compare Points of View** What different opinions did Americans have about U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War?
6. **Synthesize Information** When the text states that “dominos fell” after the Vietnam War, what does this mean?

Section 4 Assessment

1. Sentences should reflect an understanding of each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section.
2. Causes: A desire for independence led to war with the French; struggle between Communist and noncommunist groups led to a civil war that became part of a larger Cold War. Effects: widespread death and destruction and the spread of communist

rule; America entered the war to prevent the spread of communism.

3. They were losing the battle against guerilla forces led by Ho Chi Minh.
4. The United States entered the war on South Vietnam’s side to stop the spread of communism, while the Soviet Union and China supported communist North Vietnam.
5. Many Americans felt it was a quagmire and that America should withdraw. Others felt America needed to stay in

Southeast Asia to avoid the spread of communism.

6. Some nations in Southeast Asia fell under communist rule.

Writing About History

Responses should reflect a specific thesis statement.

For additional assessment, have students access **Progress Monitoring Online** at **Web Code nba-3041**.