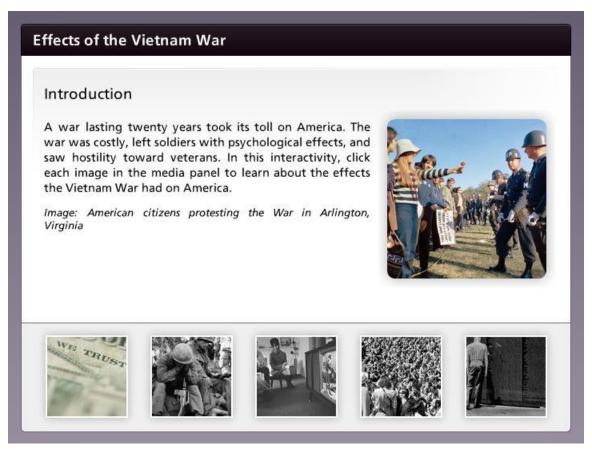
Introduction

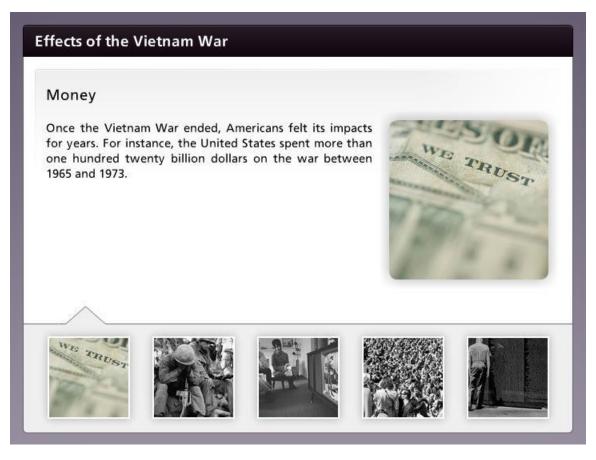


A war lasting twenty years took its toll on America. The war was costly, left soldiers with psychological effects, and saw hostility toward veterans. In this interactivity, click each image in the media panel to learn about the effects the Vietnam War had on America.

Image: American citizens protesting the War in Arlington, Virginia



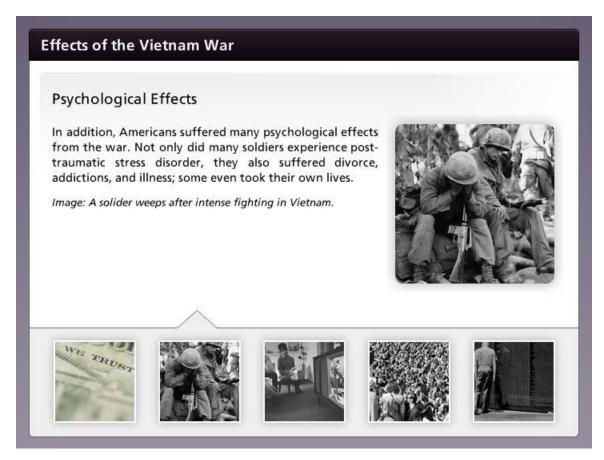
Money



Once the Vietnam War ended, Americans felt its impacts for years. For instance, the United States spent more than one hundred twenty billion dollars on the war between 1965 and 1973.



Psychological Effects

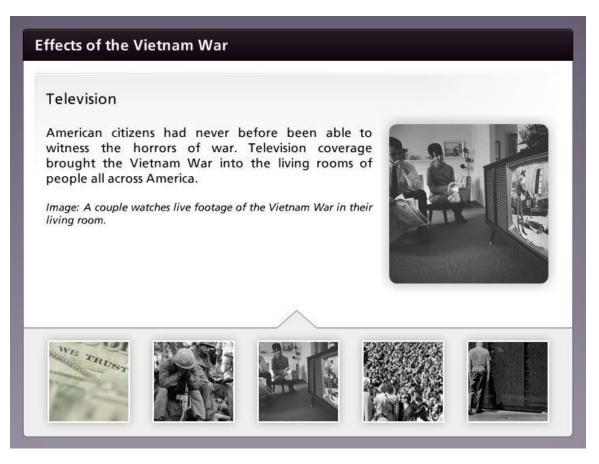


In addition, Americans suffered many psychological effects from the war. Not only did many soldiers experience post-traumatic stress disorder, they also suffered divorce, addictions, and illness; some even took their own lives.

Image: A solider weeps after intense fighting in Vietnam.



Television



American citizens had never before been able to witness the horrors of war. Television coverage brought the Vietnam War into the living rooms of people all across America.

Image: A couple watches live footage of the Vietnam War in their living room.



Treatment of Veterans

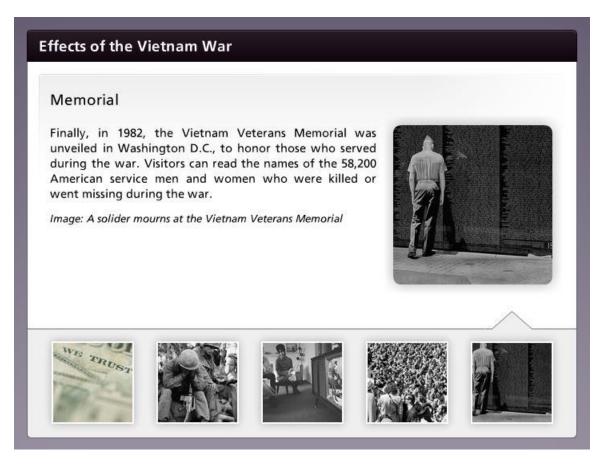


When war veterans finally returned home, they often were faced with hostility from people who thought they lost the war, or anger from others who believed they killed innocent people. This was different from the homecoming of veterans from World War II, who were honored as heroes. It took many years before Vietnam veterans received recognition for their service.

Image: Many veterans protested the war when they returned home.



Memorial



Finally, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled in Washington D.C., to honor those who served during the war. Visitors can read the names of the 58,200 American service men and women who were killed or went missing during the war.

Image: A solider mourns at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

