

Module 10: Civil Unrest - The 1960s and the 1970s

Topic 1 Content: Effects of the Vietnam War Notes

Introduction

Effects of the Vietnam War

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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



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Money

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Psychological Effects

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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.

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Television

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Treatment of Veterans

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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.



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Memorial

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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 soldier mourns at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



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