

NVVM visit focus tasks



Use details from the sights-and-sounds multimedia presentation, the information that accompanies displays, and details provided by your tour guide to help you complete what follows.

1. Explain the Domino Theory/Domino Effect and how it contributed to Australia’s involvement in the conflict in Vietnam.

2. Why else did Australia become involved in what was essentially a civil war between North and South Vietnam?

National Service was reintroduced in 1964, and then in May 1965 the Australian Government introduced new powers to enable it to send conscripted soldiers overseas. Between 1964 and 5 December 1972:

- **more than 804,000 young men registered for the National Service Scheme (conscription).**
- **some 60,000 were called up to serve in the Army**
- **over 15,300 of them were sent to Vietnam**
- **202 National Servicemen were killed and 1,279 wounded.**

3. Which Prime Minister re-introduced National Service in 1964? Which political party did he lead?

4. Name the Prime Minister who abolished National Service in 1972, and the political party he led.

5. The average age of a soldier in World War II was 26. What was the average age of a soldier in Vietnam? _____

6. Members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrived in Vietnam in 1962. What was the main role of the AATTV throughout the war?

7. Conscription has been described as 'a lottery'. Why?

8. Locate the display of documents relating to conscription. What do they tell you about the process National Servicemen went through?

9. Who was Private Errol Wayne Noack, and why is what happened to him significant?

10. How many Australian casualties were there in total during the Vietnam War? _____

11. The five display cases in our Remembrance and Valour Gallery contain hats and helmets to represent a casualty from each of the Australian Defence Forces who served in Vietnam. List the five people and Force in which they served.

12. Why was the HMAS Sydney known as the Vung Tau Ferry?

13. How did Vietnam's climate and terrain impact the style of warfare?

14. What weapons were predominantly used in warfare in Vietnam?

15. Name three different types of helicopters on display and explain what each was used for.

Type of helicopter	Uses in the Vietnam War

16. Why are the soldiers who fought at Long Tan considered to be heroes?

17. The Royal Australian Air Force did not operate any Cessna Bird Dog planes in Vietnam, but 36 Australian pilots flew them there. Explain how this occurred.

18. Explain the role of the Tunnel Rats and list the personal qualities you believe they would have needed to carry out their role.

19. What would the main occupations of Vietnamese civilians have been, and how would the war have impacted them? Remember that while Australians were involved for 10 years, for the Vietnamese people, the war lasted closer to 20 years.

20. Australian combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam by the end of 1971. Members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) left in 1972 and the last Australian platoon that had been guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon returned home in June 1973. So, why didn't the official Welcome Home March occur until October 1987?

21. Who created the Missing In Action bracelets? Why?

22. Explain why our museum has a display of closed MIA remembrance bracelet boxes.

23. Explain why the scroll called *A Queer Place* is an important exhibit at the NVVM?

24. What do the t-shirts on display upstairs tell you about attitudes to the war?

25. Upstairs, you will find displays of Zippos, cameras, tape recorders and other portable devices. Why do you think they are included in a museum dedicated to veterans of the Vietnam War?

26. As you visit the various exhibits, list any unfamiliar words, phrases or acronyms and give their meanings. A couple are included here as a starting point.

Dustoff

Conscientious objector

Nashos

Huey

FAC

Here are links to short videos and articles about aspects of the war in Vietnam that we thought might enrich your understanding and be useful in your studies.

Overview of the war in Vietnam. (4 min 34 sec)

[Australia and Vietnam War - 6,9,10 \(History\) \(abc.net.au\)](#)

Interviews on the street in 1965 revealing a range of attitudes to involvement in the war in Vietnam. (1 min 15 sec)

[Public reactions to sending troops to Vietnam War - 10 \(History\) \(abc.net.au\)](#)

The Birthday Ballot in operation, 1965. (1 min 50 sec)

[Luck of the draw: the Vietnam 'birthday ballot' - 10 \(History\) \(abc.net.au\)](#)

Story of conscientious objector Bill White, 1966. (4 min 48 sec)

[Fighting conscription, 1966 - 10 \(History\) \(abc.net.au\)](#)

Interview with conscientious objector Michael Matteson. At the time of this television appearance, he was evading arrest. (7 min 27sec)

[This Day Tonight: Draft Dodger \(1971\) - YouTube](#)

Three short excerpts from the *Super-8 Soldiers* documentary featuring two veterans who are also volunteers at National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

[Video Overview Super 8 Soldiers \(1991\) on ASO - Australia's audio and visual heritage online](#)

Short interviews with veterans from a range of services on a variety of issues, including PTSD, Agent Orange, nurses, combat, counter insurgency, loss and families.

[Vietnam war stories - Anzac Portal \(dva.gov.au\)](#)

This article by the Assistant Curator of the Australian War Memorial is an evidence-based discussion (with further links) of how images of the war impacted public attitudes.

<https://theconversation.com/the-photographers-war-vietnam-through-a-lens-8759>

This is a scholarly reflection on the Domino Theory, the Cold War and Australia's involvement in Vietnam.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australia-and-the-vietnam-war-50-years-on/>