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HVL LESSON TITLE:

VIETNAM: THE WAR THROUGH PICTURES

DEVELOPED BY: BRAD VINSON

VIETNAM: THE WAR THROUGH PICTURES

GUIDING QUESTION:

What can photos tell us about the Vietnam War?

OVERVIEW:

After watching a video of Vietnam veteran, T.C. Dawson, students will be introduced to war photographer Dickey Chapelle. In this lesson, students will analyze Chapelle's photos, answering corresponding questions and finish up with a writing assignment to assess understanding.



SUBJECT(S):
Social Studies



VIETNAM VETERAN:
TC Dawson



DURATION:
60 minutes

— VIETNAM: THE WAR THROUGH PICTURES —

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

“So, I would take my stick to line up where I was getting ready to take pictures of an abandoned airfield or radar site, or whatever I need to photograph.”

Vietnam Veteran TC Dawson

OVERVIEW:

After watching a video of Vietnam veteran, T.C. Dawson, students will be introduced to war photographer Dickey Chapelle. In this lesson, students will analyze Chapelle's photos, answering corresponding questions and finish up with a writing assignment to assess understanding.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Vietnam has long been considered a controversial war, with the primary story always centered on the Cold War struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union-backed Communist North Vietnamese. Oftentimes, the individual stories of the men who fought and the civilian communities that were affected are overlooked as side notes.

To better learn the lessons of this war and its legacy, we can attempt to analyze these personal experiences to reflect on this period in order to better understand the Vietnam War through the lens of their lives.

OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Analyze primary sources
- Explain how the war affected multiple groups.

STANDARDS:

CCRA-R.7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

CCRA-W.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support, analysis, reflection, and research.

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MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

[T.C. Dawson HVL Video](#)

Video Slip (Doc A)

Photos and Questions (Doc B)

Writing Assessment (Doc C)

Internet Connection

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Inform students that they will watch the T.C. Dawson HVL Video.
- After the video, instruct students to complete the Video Slip (Doc A).

ACTIVITY 02

- Tell students that unlike Mr. Dawson, Vietnam War photographer, Dickey Chapelle took photos to document the war for magazines. Chapelle's work did not come without cost. She was the first female war correspondent to be killed in Vietnam and the first female reporter to be killed in combat. Inform students that they analyze Chapelle's photos to better understand the war.
- Distribute the Photos and Questions (Doc B). **NOTE:** The links to the photos can be found on Doc. D.
- Teachers can assign this activity as an individual, group, or a class assignment.

ACTIVITY 03

- Distribute the Writing Assessment (Doc C). Give students 15-20 minutes to complete the assignment. This can serve as an exit slip.

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VIDEO SLIP

DOC A



DIRECTIONS: After watching the video on Vietnam Veteran, TC Dawson write a brief paragraph on what you learned about the Vietnam War through his brief story.

[illegible]

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PHOTOS AND QUESTIONS

DOC B



1. Dickey Chapelle's photos of American soldiers tell an intimate story of their experiences during the war. Which of the following photographs stand out to you the most? Why?
2. Name 3-5 emotions that you see the soldiers experiencing in these photos.
3. How do the emotions shown in these photos help you better understand the war?





4. This powerful photo allows us to see into the mind of the American soldier, and hear his thoughts about the war in which he was engaged. Oftentimes war is portrayed as a glorious event full of heroes and bravery, how does this image push back against this idea and attempt to show us the reality of war?



5. Dickey did an amazing job of documenting how the lives of the Vietnamese civilians were affected by the war. Name 3 different ways American soldiers interacted with the Vietnamese civilians in the following photographs.





6. Name 3 things you noticed after analyzing this photograph of the Vietnamese civilians in this photograph.



7. Dickey captured these photos of the South Vietnamese soldiers who were trained and fought alongside the Americans against the Communist North Vietnamese Army. What do these photos tell you about this aspect of the war?



8. Dickey Chapelle was a woman operating in a man's world during her time as a photojournalist in WWII and Vietnam. Although women's roles were limited during these time periods, Dickey thrived at her job and was accepted by the male soldiers that surrounded her. Name at least 3 personality traits you believe she must have had to be so successful as a war photojournalist.

9. If you could have a 5-minute conversation with Dickey, what 2 questions would you like to ask her?

10. Do you think photojournalists play an important role during wartime? Why or why not?



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WRITING ASSESSMENT

DOC C



Imagine you are either an American soldier, a Vietnamese civilian, or a photojournalist during the Vietnam War. Write a letter to a loved one detailing your life during this period. Include your experiences, your emotions, and your hopes/outlook for the future.