


## Unit Resources - Glossary Terms from "The Vietnam War"

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Glossary Terms from:  

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### **affirmative action**

a policy to improve educational and employment opportunities for groups that have long been victims of discrimination, especially ethnic and racial minority groups

### **Arab-Israeli War**

a war fought in October 1973 between Israel and a coalition of Arab states

### **Clean Water Act**

federal legislation in 1972 aimed at restoring and maintaining the health of U.S. rivers, lakes, and coastal waters

### **Community Reinvestment Act of 1977**

law that encouraged banks and other financial institutions in low-income areas to help meet the credit needs of communities

### **détente**

policy of relaxing tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union

### **draft**

compulsory enrollment and induction into military service

### **Endangered Species Act**

federal law passed in 1973 establishing protections for threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

U.S. governmental agency established in 1970 with the mission of protecting human health and the environment

### **Equal Rights Amendment (1972)**

a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing equal legal rights for all U.S. citizens regardless of gender

### **Gerald Ford**

American politician from Michigan who served as the 38th president of the United States

**Gulf of Tonkin Resolution**

joint resolution of Congress with force of law that authorized the president to take measures necessary to oppose communist aggression

**Higher Education Act, Title IX (1972)**

a federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in any activity or program that receives federal funding

**hippies**

group of people in the 1960s and 1970s who rejected the conventions of traditional society

**Jimmy Carter**

American politician from Georgia who served as the 39th president of the United States

**Kent State**

university where unarmed students were shot by members of the Ohio National Guard on May 4, 1970

**Love Canal disaster**

an environmental catastrophe in Niagara Falls, New York, in which residents of a neighborhood that had been built over a landfill were exposed to leaking toxic chemicals

**My Lai massacre (1968)**

mass murder of unarmed South Vietnamese civilians by U.S. soldiers on March 16, 1968

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

a federal agency created to improve the safety and health of all workers in the private sector and in the federal government

**oil crisis**

a period in the 1970s during which a sudden rise in oil prices accompanied a shortage

**Olympic boycott**

one of a number of actions taken by President Carter to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

**Pentagon Papers**

government documents leaked to the New York Times that revealed the true nature of the conflict in Vietnam and turned many Americans against the war

**Regents of the University of California v. Bakke**

a legal case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1978 that affirmative action programs do not violate the Constitution but the use of racial quotas does violate it

**Richard Nixon**

American politician from California who served as the 37th president of the United States

**Roe v. Wade**

a legal case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1973 that it is unconstitutional for states to unduly restrict abortion

**Tet Offensive**

military campaign of surprise attacks beginning in January 1968 by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces on cities and towns in South Vietnam

**Three Mile Island accident**

a serious accident in 1979 in which one of the reactors at a nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania partially melted down, resulting in the release of radioactive gases into the atmosphere

**Tinker v. Des Moines**

landmark Supreme Court decision that defined free speech rights of students in American public schools

**Twenty-sixth Amendment**

change in the U.S. Constitution prohibiting state and local governments from denying voting rights to U.S. citizens at least 18 years old

**United States v. Nixon**

a Supreme Court case resulting in the court order for President Nixon to release his secret recordings to investigators

**Vietnamization**

Nixon administration's policy of turning over responsibility for the defense of South Vietnam to South Vietnamese forces

**War Powers Act**

federal law checking the president's authority to commit the United States to armed conflict without the consent of Congress

**war protests**

demonstrations in opposition to war

**Watergate**

the name given to the Nixon administration political scandal that started with a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C.