In the Air, On Land and Sea: 1954-1975

A Student Gallery Guide for the Vietnam War

1. At the entrance to the gallery, find this “In the Air, on Land and Sea” sign.

   The first Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) landed in Vietnam in ____________ (year).

2. Find this "Domino Theory" sign.

   a. What is the “Domino Theory” proclaimed by President Eisenhower in the 1950s?

   b. What role did it play in America's involvement in the Vietnam War?

3. Find this image of President Johnson. How did events in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964 lead to increased American involvement in Vietnam?
Watch the video in the belly of the **A-4E Skyhawk** and read about it to answer questions 4 and 5.

4. Vietnam was America’s first ____________ war.

5. What was the nickname for the **A-4E Skyhawk**?

6. Look for the display titled **“Reconnaissance Marines.”**
   What was the mission of the “Recon” Marines in Vietnam?

7. Read about **“War Dogs”** in the display case to the right of the Vietnamese hut. How were these dogs employed by the Marines?

8. A massive communist offensive erupted across Vietnam on 30 January ______________, shattering a cease fire announced for __________, a Vietnamese national holiday.
9. Find this display about Hue City and the **Ontos**. Read about “compassion” during the war. Who is shown treating the Vietnamese girl with compassion?

10. Read about the **Siege of Khe Sanh**. Enter the helicopter into the Hill 881 South immersion exhibit. **Describe what you see, hear, and feel.** What do you think the Marines fighting on this hill experienced?

11. Look for these **television sets**. Vietnam is considered the first televised war. What other historical events, in addition to the Vietnam War, would Americans have learned about by watching television in the 1960s?

12. Read about the captured **Soviet 122mm Field Gun** on the “Spoils of War” sign. During what operation did the Marines find twelve of these field guns?
13. Read about “The Bitter End.”
   a. What did Marine Master Sergeant Jan Valdez, the last man onto the last helicopter during the evacuation, bring out with him in April 1975.

   b. Find this photograph of people boarding a helicopter. Who are they?

14. Welcome to California! Where in California did 50,000 Vietnamese refugees find temporary homes after fleeing the new communist regime in Vietnam?

15. Exit the Vietnam gallery. Find this sign about the Bell UH-1E Iroquois (Huey helicopter). Name the pilot of this helicopter who in August 1967 rescued the crew of a downed U.S. Army helicopter, earning him a Medal of Honor.