North Vietnamese patrol boats attacked the USS Maddox in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin. This event led President Johnson to ask Congress for the authority to use military force.

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The Domino Theory compares the potential spread of communism throughout Southeast Asia to a row of falling dominoes.

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Answer Key
4. Vietnam was America’s first ________ helicopter _______ war.

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

It was called “Heinemann’s Hot Rod” after its chief designer, Ed Heinemann.

6. Look for the display titled “Reconnaissance Marines.”

What was the mission of the “Recon” Marines in Vietnam?

The Recon Marines took the war deep into enemy strongholds. The intelligence they uncovered provided guidance to infantry battalions and directed artillery and air power onto inviting targets.

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

War dogs helped Marines “sniff out the enemy to the front or flank.”

8. A massive communist offensive erupted across Vietnam on 30 January ____________, shattering a cease fire announced for ____________, a Vietnamese national holiday.

Answer Key [2]
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?

A Navy hospital corpsman.

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?

Answers will vary and may include: dead and wounded Marines; helicopter noise; artillery; sandbags; American flag; gunfire; shouting of orders; heat.

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?

Assassination of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., Richard Nixon defeating Hubert Humphrey, and Apollo 8 astronauts orbiting the moon

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?

During Operation Dewy Canyon, along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Marines found twelve of these field guns.

**Answer Key**

[ 3 ]
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. The embassy’s American flag.

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

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

Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton

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.

Marine Captain Stephen W. Pless

Answer Key

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