

Good questions are more important than "correct" answers! Here are some questions about the Vietnam War that I have cobbled together from different sources over time:

Military and Political Questions:

Why did the United States fight in Vietnam? Was the Vietnam war worth fighting for? Was it winnable? What happened? Why did everything go so terribly wrong? Who was to blame? Was Ho Chi Minh a stooge of Communist Russia and or China or a nationalist using communist support to win independence for his country? Could the war have been avoided? What was the war like before the United States entered it? How did we change it? How candid was the United States government? Why did the United States lose the war? Was it all worth it?

Anti-War Movement Questions:

What does it mean to be a patriot? Why did so many patriotic Americans come to believe the war was a mistake? Why did the anti-War movement become so strong in the United States? What were its criticisms of the war in Vietnam? Were they right? Kent State Massacre May 4th specific questions: [by historian Thomas Grace] "Were the casualties a deliberate act of injustice that must be remembered in order to be rectified? Were these young people unarmed combatants in a war to stop a war? And were the students themselves primarily responsible for what happened - the killings an object lesson in what happens when dissent turns into confrontation? Or was it all just a tragic mistake (like the war itself as some believed) leaving wounds that could only be healed through acts of reconciliation? How much responsibility lay with Governor Rhodes, who had ordered the National Guard troops to Kent and how much with the officers who commanded these forces?"

Social Questions:

How did the war change the United States?

Overarching Question:

What lesson(s) should we take from the Vietnam War experience?