

Hi everyone, this is the powerpoint that you need to complete the first 2 lessons this week (week commencing 25th January).

You need to work your way through the powerpoint, completing tasks as you go.

I suggest that you complete the starter activity and tasks 1-3 during the first period this week and tasks 4-5 and the finishing task the second period.

There is a newspaper template sheet also marked lesson 6 on the history home learning S3 hub beside this powerpoint.

Good luck!

Starter - True or False? Explain your decision

under the statement (adapted from Seymour Hersh)

Statement and Explanation	TRUE	FALSE
If a soldier kills someone during war, it's not a crime. Explain your decision:		
It's wrong if a soldier refuses to kill during a war.		
Sometimes during war, soldiers kill for revenge.		
Sometimes, soldiers feel bad for what they've done during war.		
Sometimes, governments make mistakes or lie about what happens during war.		

'Something Dark and Bloody' - the My Lai Massacre (pronounced me lie)

LI: to explain why the events at the My Lai Massacre were a turning point in the Vietnam War

Success Criteria:

All: Can describe what happened at My Lai

Most: Can explain why there was a massacre at My Lai

Some: Can assess the impact on people's attitudes to war at home

Glossary:

Civilian - a person not in the armed forces

Berserk - out of control, wild

Massacre - brutal slaughter of many people

Recap: Search and Destroy

During search and destroy missions, soldiers were ordered to enter Vietnamese villages looking for Vietcong hiding there. During those missions, many soldiers were:

- Terrified
- Became trigger happy and shot without thinking
- Set fire to the village houses
- Viewed all Vietnamese as enemies



MY LAI MASSACRE



- On 16th March 1968, a unit of soldiers called **Charlie Company** were sent on a search & destroy mission to an area of South Vietnam near the small village of My Lai. They were led by Lieutenant William Calley.
- 150 American soldiers and 5 officers landed by helicopter near My Lai
- They were told that there were Vietcong soldiers in the village.
- They were told that the villagers would be at the local market because it was Saturday.



At the same time.....



An Army Helicopter pilot, Hugh Thompson, was flying over **My Lai**. He looked in horror at what he saw.

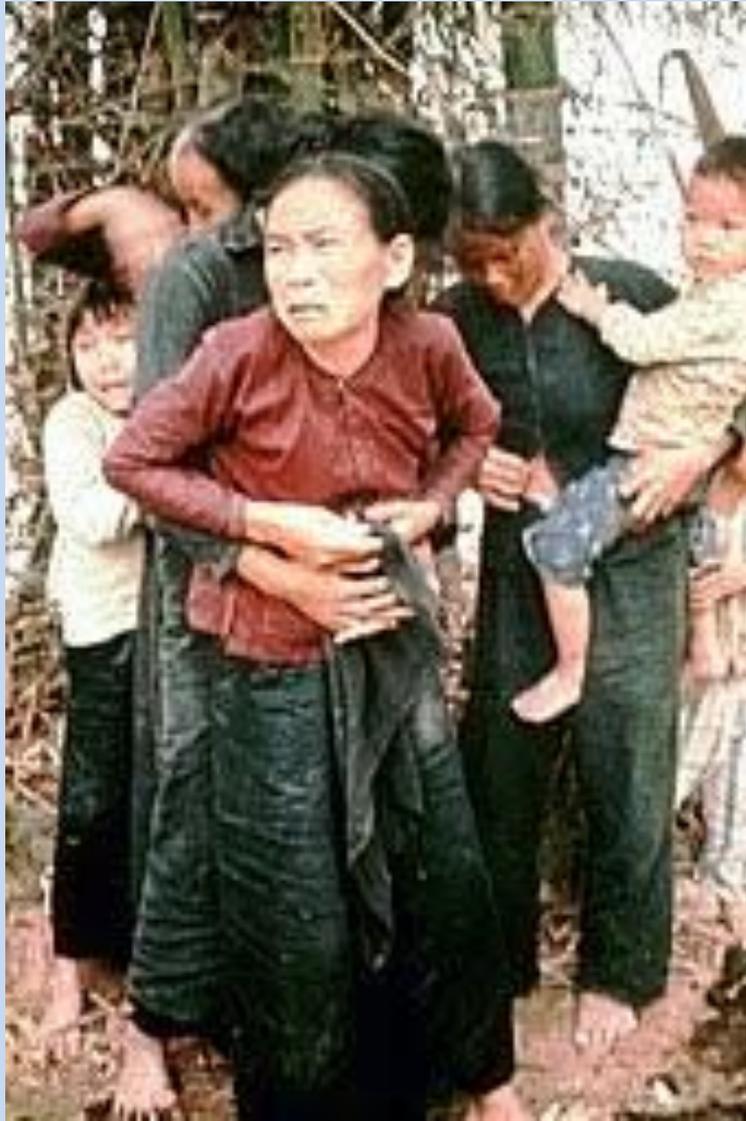
The Men of Charlie Company had gone berserk...



They had set fire to the village...



The troops were firing their rifles at unarmed civilians begging for their lives...



Men, women, children, and babies were being shot in the carnage...



By late morning, bodies were strewn throughout the village. 504 people were murdered in the killing spree, NO VIETCONG WERE FOUND





- Thomson landed his helicopter and positioned his crew between the soldiers and the villagers

- He told his crew to open fire on any US soldier who continued to shoot

- His report was covered up by the army

The official army report recorded that the Mission had been a huge success, claiming that only 20 civilians had been killed and the rest were Vietcong soldiers.

Task 1:

Using the previous slides, write a brief summary of the events of My Lai.

Why would soldiers carry out such a horrific attack?

Task 2: Look at the reasons below explaining why the massacre happened.

Write out each reason. Do you think it's a fair reason?

Write an argument against each reason explaining why it's wrong

1. The soldiers were ordered to kill everyone in the village.
2. The soldiers were sick of watching their friends die through the guerrilla tactics of Vietcong so they wanted revenge.
3. Civilians often become casualties in war, it can't be helped.
4. The Vietcong were in the village.

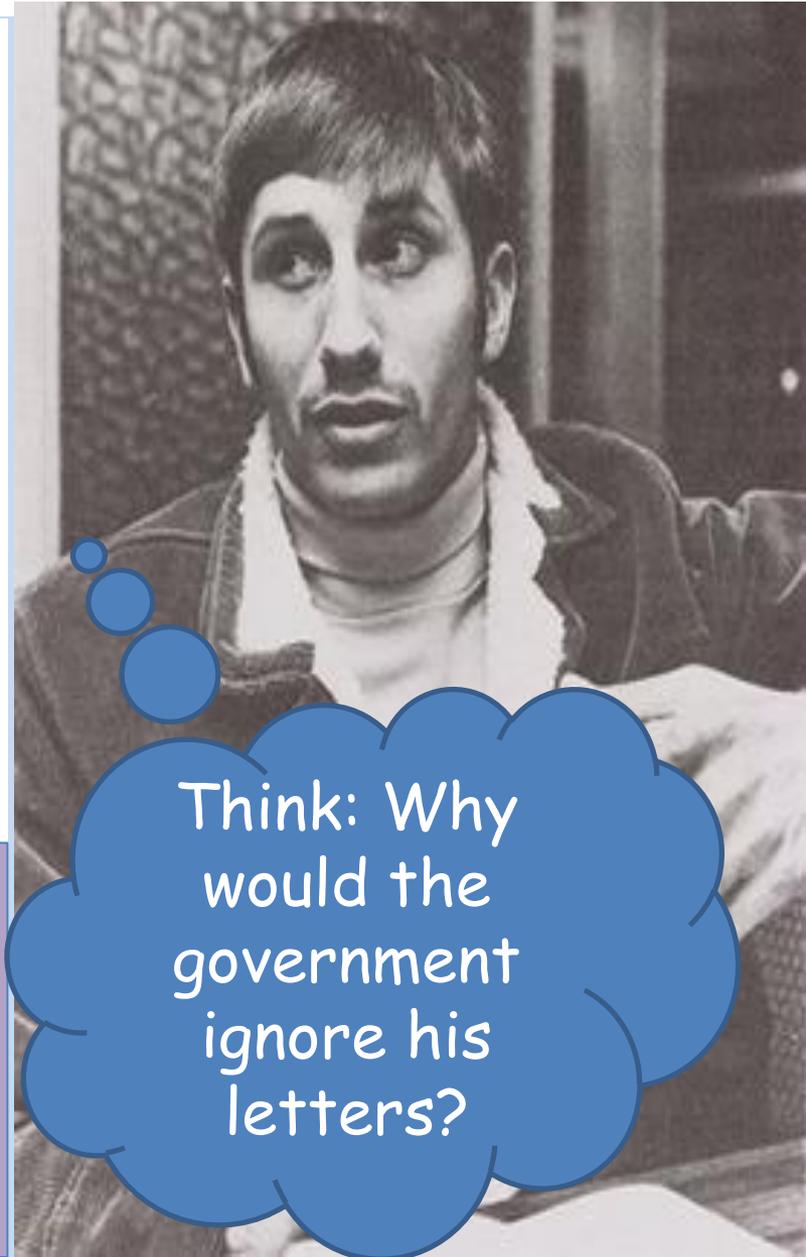
'Something dark and bloody'

In 1969, Ron Ridenhour, a soldier who had heard about the atrocities, wrote a letter to the US government calling for an investigation.

- He described My Lai as 'something dark and bloody.'
- He was ignored but continued to write.

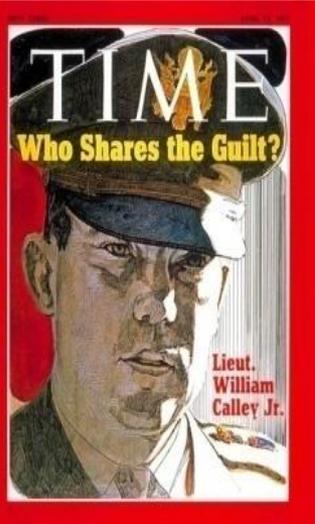
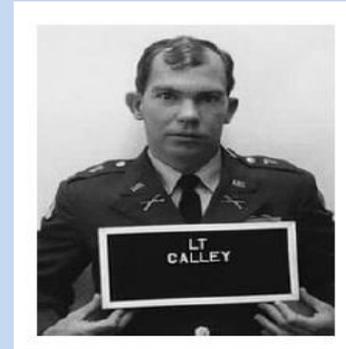
Task 3: Watch the video clip and record at least 5 things Ridenhour reveals about My Lai

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnvTyMptOt8>



Think: Why would the government ignore his letters?

- In 1969, Time magazine got hold of the pictures from the massacre.
- An investigation soon followed.
- The platoon leader, Lt. William Calley was charged with the murder of 109 people
- He claimed he was acting under orders but the army denied they had ordered the murder
- He was the only soldier charged
- He was sentenced to 20 years in prison but only served 3



Do you think others who obeyed his orders should also have been found guilty? Explain why.

Task 4 - Newspaper Article

You are going to write a newspaper article telling the world what happened at My Lai.

Success criteria

- Heading
- Subheading
- Written columns describing what happened
- Picture

You can use the newspaper template (see additional sheet) or design your own.

1st Photos of Viet Mass Slaying

WEATHER
Partly cloudy and
rather windy.
High 50; low 30; precip. 0.
Details on Page 5-C.

THE PLAIN DEALER

FINAL
Stocks & Races
Dow-Jones off 5.21

128TH YEAR—NO. 324

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER
CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1969

96 PAGES 10 CENTS



Exclusive

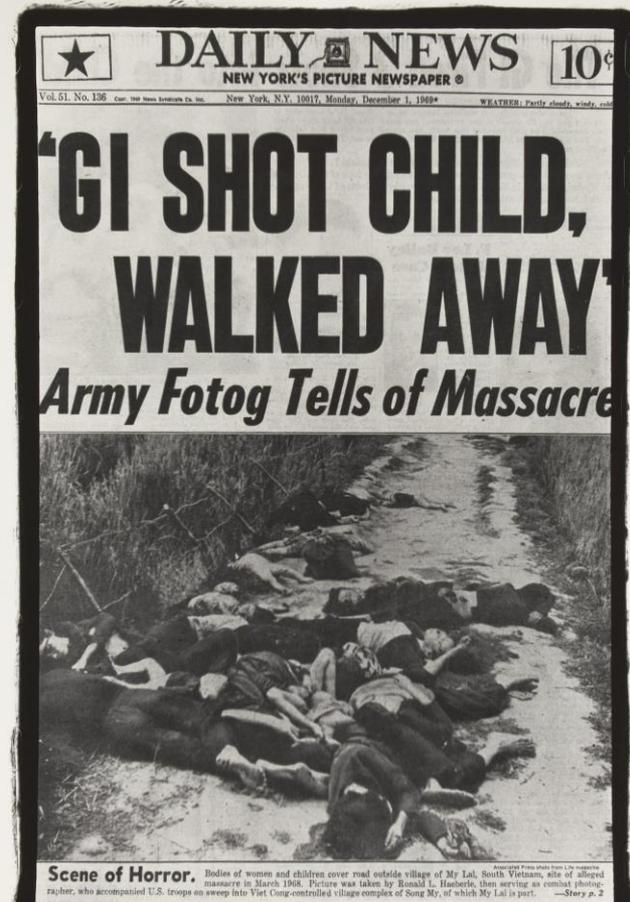
This photograph will shock Americans as it shocked the editors and the staff of The Plain Dealer. It was taken by a young Cleveland area man while serving as a photographer with the U.S. Army in South Vietnam.

It was taken during the attack by American soldiers on the South Vietnamese village My Lai, an attack which has made world headlines in recent days with disclosures of mass killings allegedly at the hands of American soldiers.

This photograph and others on two special pages are the first to be published anywhere of the killings.

This particular picture shows a clump of bodies of South Vietnamese civilians which includes women and children. Why they were killed raises one of the most momentous questions of the war in Vietnam.

Camerasman
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The My Lai Massacre shocked the public and is seen as a turning point in the attitudes of people to the Vietnam War

- Caused outrage in the US and around the world.
- Revealed a cover up by the US army and government.
- Made more people oppose the war.
- Caused more people to distrust the US army and government.
- Led to more support for the Communist cause in Vietnam.
- Embarrassed the US as no longer seen as the morally right leader in the world.

Which of the above factors do you think was the most important in changing attitudes to the War?

Task 5: Explain why was My Lai a turning point in the Vietnam War (6 marks)

My Lai was a turning point in the Vietnam war because ...

This meant that ... This led to ...

It was also a turning point in the war because

This meant that ... This led to ...

Finally, it was also a turning point because

This meant that ... This led to ...

To finish... True or False? Are your answers the same as they were at the beginning? (adapted from Seymour Hersh)

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