

QUALITIES	THE US ARMY	THE VIET CONG
WELL TRAINED SOLDIERS		
THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY		
RELIABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT		
MAIN TACTICS		
SUPPORT FROM THE VIETNAMESE		
MOTIVATED AND COMMITTED SOLDIERS		
DISADVANTAGES		 LIVEWORKSHEETS



The Americans were well supplied with every kind of weapon and the USA was the richest country in the world.

At the start of the war the American troops were highly trained and professional. Later in the war they were mostly inexperienced young men drafted into the army for just one year.

The Viet Cong were well supplied through the Ho Chi Minh Trail from North Vietnam, who themselves got help from China.

The Americans had good technology. They had the most advanced helicopters, guns, bombs and vehicles.

The Americans relied heavily on air power. They dropped large amounts of bombs on North Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and villages in South Vietnam.

The Vietnamese used guerrilla tactics: retreat when the enemy attacks; raid when the enemy camps; attack when the enemy tires; pursue when the enemy retreats.

The Viet Cong used mostly low-technology forms of combat: booby traps and simple weapons.

The Viet Cong had about 170,000 heavily armed and well-supplied soldiers.

The Americans were fighting to support a very unpopular regime in South Vietnam which did not have the support of the peasant population in the countryside.

The Viet Cong were respectful to the Vietnamese people, which got the peasants on their side.

The Viet Cong refused to give in despite heavy losses. They were deeply committed to their cause and were determined to defend Vietnam from yet another outside force after getting rid of the Japanese and the French.

Many of the American soldiers did not know much about Vietnam before they arrived and were not motivated to defend it.

The US army had inadequate information and intelligence about the whereabouts of Viet Cong strongholds. Many innocent civilians were killed and villages destroyed.

The Vietnamese used guerrilla tactics: retreat when the enemy attacks; raid when the enemy camps; attack when the enemy tires; pursue when the enemy retreats.