Lead up to the Vietnam War
Cold War

- U.S. involvement in Vietnam in the early part of the Cold War
- Cold War policies were based on Harry Truman’s containment policies
- In 1954 Eisenhower coined the term Domino Theory.
- Domino Theory - the fear that if one Southeast Asian country fell to communism, others would also follow.
French Involvement in Vietnam

- Vietnamese history of nationalism.
- Prior to the 1800s, Vietnam spent their time fighting off China’s attempt to swallow them whole.
- In the 1800s, France asserted itself as a colonial power.
- Ho Chi Minh was the head of the Vietminh, the League for the Independence of Vietnam.
Vietnam Divided

- The group arranged a peaceful settlement known as the Geneva Accords.
- Vietnam was divided near the 17th Parallel creating two separate nations.
U.S. Involvement

• The U.S. began providing economic aid to the French in the 1950s.
• After the French defeat, support was given to South Vietnam in the way of military leaders.
Exit Quiz

1. Define the Domino Theory
2. What European country established itself as a colonial power in Vietnam?
3. What agreement established the 17th parallel?
4. What did the 17th parallel do?
5. What was the U.S. involvement consist of following the French defeat?