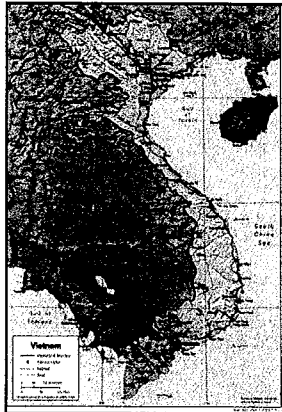
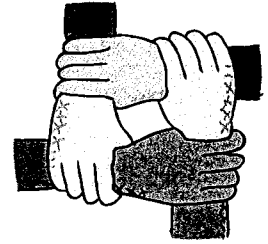


# Conflict & Cooperation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We have all experienced conflict and cooperation. When you disagree or quarrel with someone, you are in **conflict** with them; when you agree or work with someone, you are **cooperating**. Conflict and cooperation do not only happen between people. Countries around the world are constantly engaging in conflict or cooperation with other countries. Read the following description of wars fought in Vietnam. As you read, think about who is in conflict and who is cooperating.



## War in Vietnam

Just as the United States used to be a colony of England, the Republic of Vietnam used to be a colony of France. The Vietnamese people got tired of being colonists, and they went to war against France for their freedom. But unlike the United States, the Vietnamese did not have peace after they pushed France out. They could not agree on who should run the country, and a civil war broke out between the northern and southern parts of Vietnam.

By 1955, the war had become a battle over whether Vietnam would follow a political philosophy called communism. Those in the north supported communism, while those in the south did not. Another country that did not support communism was the United States. In order to stop the spread of communism, the United States became involved in the war and supported southern Vietnam. At the same time, northern Vietnam got support from China, a large and powerful communist country that supported the communist takeover of southern Vietnam.



American soldiers investigate a north Vietnamese tunnel.

For many years, the United States military worked with southern Vietnam to fight the communist north. The American and south Vietnamese militaries used a combination of ground attacks and air power to fight the north. The north relied on ground troops, a vast network of tunnels, and sympathetic villagers to launch attacks and support its cause. Even with the support of the United States, the northern army was victorious. In 1975, the northern army captured the southern capital of Saigon, and Vietnam became a communist country.

**International conflict** happens when countries disagree. Sometimes a disagreement between countries may become so severe that war seems like the only way to resolve the problem. But international conflict does not have to involve war. Sometimes countries disagree about how problems should be solved. They won't go to war over it, but the relationship between them might be strained. For example, the United States and North Korea disagree about how government should work and whether North Korea should have nuclear weapons. The U.S. is not at war with North Korea, but the diplomatic relations between the two countries are very strained. *What international conflicts existed once the United States got involved in Vietnam?*



An American F-4B drops bombs during the conflict in Vietnam.



An American advisor works with two soldiers from the South Vietnamese army.

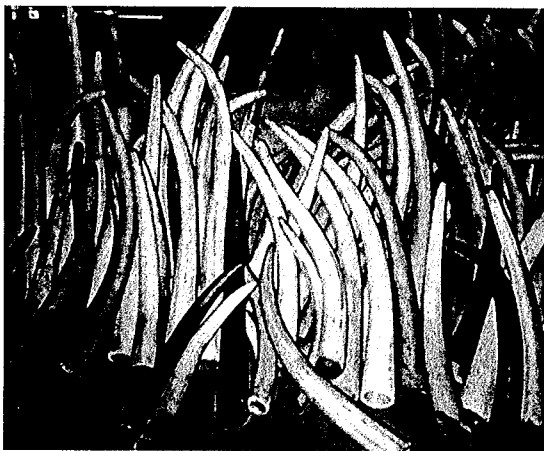
**International cooperation** happens when countries have something to gain by working together to solve problems. Countries may cooperate in order to avoid going to war, which is very costly in both money and lives. Countries who share a common natural resource, such as a river or a large forest, may work together to manage that resource in a way that benefits everyone. *What is an example of international cooperation that took place during the Vietnam war?*

# Conflict & Cooperation

## Conditions

In order for countries to come into conflict or cooperation with each other, certain **conditions** must exist. Conditions are the circumstances that cause something to happen. For example, during the early part of World War II Japan led a naval campaign that occupied islands across the Pacific. They eventually attacked a U.S. naval base in Hawaii, an American territory. The United States responded by declaring war on Japan. Before this attack, the U.S. had stayed out of the international conflict.

Conditions can also lead to cooperation. The illegal killing of elephants has become a widespread problem in Africa. Because of these conditions, several African countries have signed an agreement to work together to fight elephant poaching.



Elephant tusks taken from poachers in Africa.

## Actions

Conflict and cooperation occur when conditions and motivations push countries toward **actions**. These actions can be military, political, economic, or a combination of all three. Because of the conflict between the United States and North Korea, the United States limits political relations with North Korea and also does not give financial aid to that country. On the other hand, Egypt is a Middle Eastern country that cooperates with the United States. As a result, the U.S. helps Egypt strengthen its military and buy weapons. The U.S. also supports health, education, and job development programs in Egypt.



Front page of a newspaper after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## Motivations

While conditions are the circumstances that exist, **motivations** are the reasons or goals that cause a country to act. For example, the United States' motivation for going to war with Japan was to protect American territory and interests from Japan and its ally, Germany. The African countries' motivation for signing the anti-poaching agreement is to save elephants. In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, a tiny neighboring country with lots of oil and great location for trade. Iraq's motivation for invading Kuwait was to control Kuwait's oil reserves and gain access to the Persian Gulf.

