



1960s AND 1970s LESSON PLANS

The Vietnam Era 1967–71 War and Antiwar Sentiment Lesson Four – Letter from an Indiana Nurse

by Teresa Boruff-Young

Introduction

These lessons are part of a U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant to the Brown County Schools, Nashville, Indiana, in collaboration with the Department of History, Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis and the Indiana Historical Society.

In this lesson students will be introduced to Karren E. Mundell, an Indiana nurse who served in Vietnam. After reading letters that she wrote home to her family in Indiana, students will be asked to consider what the role of a nurse might be during the Vietnam War.

Essential Question

How did the Vietnam War impact Americans?

Grade Level

High School

Academic Standards for the Social Studies

- Indiana Standards:
 - High School, U.S. History, Standard 7, The United States in Troubled Times: 1960 to 1980 (USH 7.3, 7.4, and 7.10)

- National Standards (National Council for Social Studies): II Time, Continuity, and Change; III People, Places, and Environments; V Individuals, Groups, and Institutions; VI Power, Authority, and Governance; and X Civic Ideals and Practices

Social Studies/Historical Concepts

Vietnam War and antiwar protest

Time Required

Two eighty-minute class periods

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Evaluate the experiences of an Indiana native in the Vietnam War through reading the letters she wrote to her family.
- Discover a connection between the experiences of one individual to specific events in history.

Materials Required

- Photocopies of the Student Handout, one copy for each student. The handout is provided on page three of this lesson.

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- Mundell’s letters from the Indiana Historical Society, Digital Image Collections.

- The instructor may download and print these materials for student use during class from the IHS Digital Image Collections at <http://images.indianahistory.org/cdm4/search.php> (accessed October 7, 2011). Enter the Item ID in “The exact phrase” field to locate the item.

- “Karren Mundell Letter to Mom and Dad, May 5, 1966” Item ID: M0700_FOLDER1_5-5-1966_001
- “Karren Mundell Letter to Folks, June 18, 1966” Item ID: M0700_FOLDER2_6-18-1966_001
- “Karren Mundell Letter, September 11, 1966” (Item ID: M0700_FOLDER3_9-11-1966_001
- “Karren Mundell Letter to Mom, March 20, 1967 ” Item ID: M0700_FOLDER7_3-20-1967_001
- “Karren Mundell Letter to Mom, March 27, 1967” Item ID: M0700_FOLDER7_3-27-1967_001

- pens or pencils
- map of Vietnam

Procedure

- Ask students to read letters written by Mundell to her family and react to those letters in a class discussion.
- Find Mundell’s location in Vietnam on a map and follow her travels.
- Have students complete the graphic organizer found on page three of this lesson.
- Use the graphic organizer to conduct the class discussion.

- Ask students to make connections between Mundell’s activities and events occurring in the war.

Assessment

Participation in the class discussion will indicate an understanding of Mundell’s Vietnam experiences. Completion of the graphic organizer will indicate an understanding of the connection between Mundell’s experiences and specific wartime events.

LESSON FOUR STUDENT HANDOUT

Letter from an Indiana Nurse

Instructions

After you have read Karren Mundell's letters, complete this graphic organizer.

Date of letter	What was happening in the war at this time?	What was Mundell doing?	How do Mundell's activities connect to events of the war?
May 5, 1966			
June 18, 1966			
September 11, 1966			
March 20, 1967			
March 27, 1967			