***Background of Vietnam War Activity***

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-vietnam-war/home/> EPISODE 1

● How did colonialism, first under the Chinese and then the French, impact the Vietnamese people? What did they gain, and what did they lose?

● Under the conditions of colonialism, why was it easy for the French to feel superior to the Vietnamese, and for the Vietnamese to resent the French?

● How did the French policy of pacification set the tone for relations between the Vietnamese and the French? How did it set the standard for brutality among the combatants?

● Describe how the Vietnamese fight for independence was similar to other 1 colonies’ struggles for independence from more powerful and domineering countries. For example, what similarities and differences do you see in Vietnam’s quest for independence from France and the American colonies’ break with Great Britain?

Do a quick cost/benefit analysis of colonialism for the French and the Vietnamese. Distribute Using the 2 copies of the graphic organizer handout, complete an analysis for each country, France and Vietnam.

● Which country benefited the most from colonialism? In what way?

● What were the political, economic, and social costs of colonialism for both countries?

● Which country seemed to “pay” more?

● What arguments could each country have made to convince the other that either the benefits were good for both France and Vietnam if Vietnam remained under French rule, or the costs were too high for the French to maintain colonial rule over Vietnam?