

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

By Ellie, Freya, Mitzi and Jamila.



Starter activity: what do you think these pictures mean?



Democracy is the tool to beat communism

The symbol of communism looks foreboding and therefore and evil force.



The expression on the man's face makes him appear scared and angry. This could imply that he does not want communism to be spread to his country.

Overall USA is representing communism as the evil force that is threatening Asia

Kennedys Aims

Kennedys **main aim** was to **stop the spread of communism through Asia!** He decided to **increase Americas involvement in Vietnam**, to **support the Diem** (who was very anti-communist) and **defeat Vietcong**. However, Kennedy **wasn't yet ready to send in troops**. Americas assisted by:

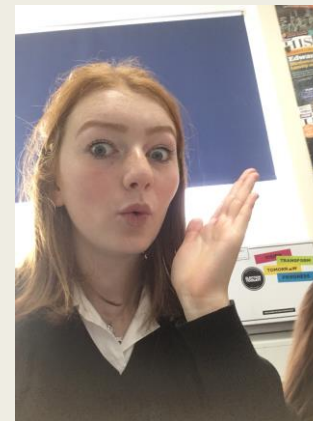
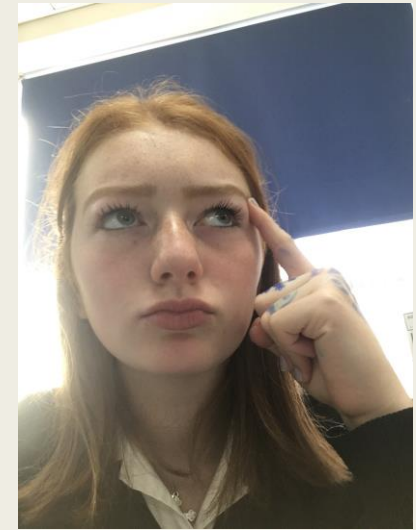
- **Increasing** the amount of **military experts** who were training South Vietnams army, know as the **Army Of The Republic Of Vietnam (ARVN)**. Kennedy sent over **16,000 advisors**.
- Giving the ARVN a further **20,000 troops**, which mean the **total number** was now **170,000**.
- Spending **\$270 million** in **military support** for the Diem, in **1961**

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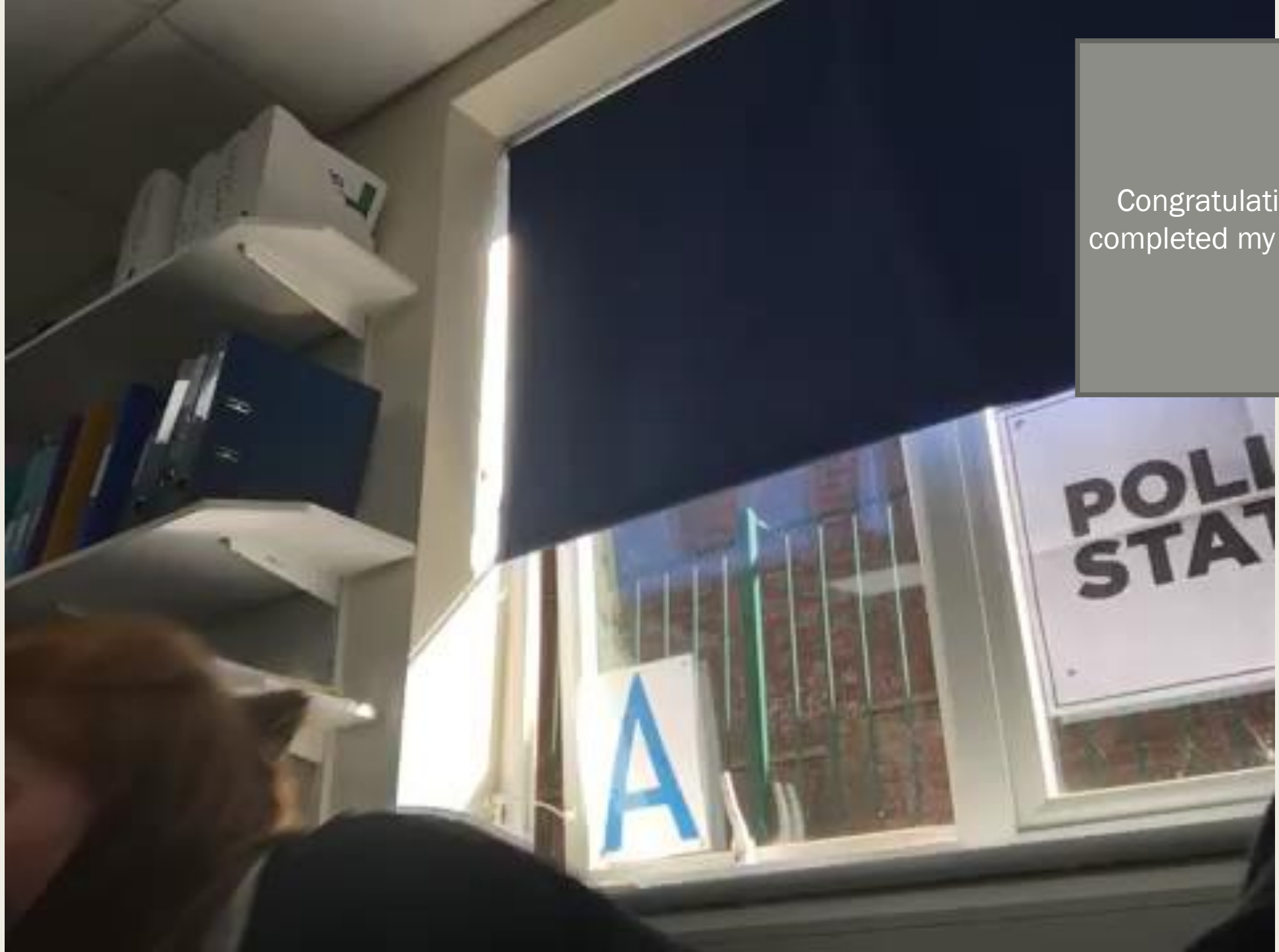
- To attempt to **influence** the new South Vietnam's **government to act democratically**
- To help the new government **win over the people of South Vietnam.**
- To attempt to **withdraw as many American advisors, and other forces as soon as possible.**

Freya's middle activity

- Choose a key fact from Kennedys aims!
- Write your key fact on a post-it note
- Stick it to your partners head
- Then take it in turns to try and guess the post-it note on your head.
- BUT REMEMBER YOU CAN ONLY USE YES OR NO QUESTIONS.



Congratulations! You completed my challenge!



Overthrow of Diem

- Kennedy saw that the Diem was to unpopular to defeat Vietcong.
- America gave there support to a group plotting to overthrow Diem.
- On 1st November 1963, the troops supporting the overthrow surrounded Diem's palace in Saigon.
- Diem asked the America for support, but none was given.
- On 2nd November 1963, Diem was arrested and shot.

Outcome of the overthrow of the Diem.

- America's attempts were too late. **Diem's unpopular government** had greatly **increased Vietcong's support**.
- By **early 1963**, Vietcong's support had **increased to 23,000**.
- After a **year and a half**, the Vietcong had **170,000 fighters**. This was greatly due to **help from China**.
- Vietcong won their **first military victory** against the South, during **January 1963**.
- The general who took control after Diem **only lasted 3 months**. And the next ruler, **General Khanh, lasted only one year**.

The strategic hamlet program – 1962

- **What is it?** A strategic hamlet was lots of **large new villages**, which were surrounded by **barbed wire, and guarded by the ARVN**, with **facilities like schools and clinics**. People had to **leave their homes** and then travel a **large distance** to get to these new villages.
- **Why was this done?** It was an **attempt to stop** the **Vietcong** from **recruiting villagers or getting aid or supplies from them**.
- **Did it work?** No, The **villagers did not like** having to leave their **land, homes or family burial sites**. Therefore, many of them began to **support Vietcong**. Also, the policy meant **communist supporters** could **spread the ideas in new places**.

Strategic hamlet program: facts

Nearly 3000
strategic
hamlets were
set up

The strategic hamlet program ended up causing more people to support Vietcong. So Kennedy had to send in more military support, including aircrafts and intelligence equipment. However he would not send in combat troops.

Work began on
the strategic
hamlet program
on January
1962

Questions

- Write down two questions on what you just learnt.
- Then you and your partner choose to be either A or B.
- Whoever's A will ask their questions and whoever's B will go around the room answering others questions.
- Then A and B will swap.

