

Warm-Up: Tet Offensive

On January 30, 1968, the communists staged their largest military campaign, the **Tet Offensive**, a surprise attack of nearly all of South Vietnam's major cities and the U.S. Embassy in 1968. Tet, Lunar New Year, had been traditionally observed as a time of cease-fire for Vietnam's most important holiday and with the exception of Khe Sanh, American forces had expected a relatively quiet holiday. In a coordinated attack by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese forces, American troops were at first surprised, but quickly rallied to push back the communist offensive. The **Tet Offensive** proved to be the turning point in the war.



North Vietnamese Attacks in South Vietnam



Major Battles Fought During Tet Offensive

1. According to the maps above, where did the North Vietnamese launch the Tet Offensive from?
2. How many South Vietnamese cities were attacked during the Tet Offensive?
3. Why did the attack on the Tet holiday catch American forces by surprise?
4. Before the Tet Offensive, The US government claimed the communists were nearing total defeat. What does the Tet Offensive show you about the state of the Vietnam War?