

## US History The Vietnam War

### Learning Target:

*I can examine how American's changing perception of the war impacted the draft.*

### 8. The Draft

#### *History of the Draft in the US –*

##### War of 1812 –

-James Madison attempted to create a national draft but failed

##### Civil War –

- First national draft in the countries history
- Most troops were volunteers
- Could hire substitutes or buy your way out of the draft

##### World Wars –

- The draft was used after we entered WWI in 1917
- First peacetime draft system started in 1940
- Independent agency called the Selective Service System instituted

##### Korean War –

-Draft reinstated for manpower needed in Korea

##### Korea to Vietnam –

- Draft continued on a limited basis in the late 1950s and early 1960s
- Small number of males actually drafted compared to wartime
- Required to serve two years if drafted
- Two famous draftees were Elvis Presley and Willie Mays

#### *The Vietnam Draft –*

##### Draft Lottery –

- First time held since 1942
- Changed draft from draft the oldest man first method
- Held on Dec. 1, 1969
- Possible draftees would be born between 1944 – 1950
- Random number assigned to your birthday and placed in a container
- Higher number better than lower number

##### Avoiding Service –

- Deferments –
  - Medical
  - Education
  - Jail
  - Canada Emigration

##### Other options –

-Many volunteered immediately to join National Guard or Coast Guard