

**For Teachers:** Please have the students read the sentences one at a time and correct their pronunciation of each sentence then have them repeat after you. Wait until after they read the sentence (use the number in place of the missing word) to have the students choose the correct answer to fill in the blank. When the students finish the article, move on to the further questions.

日本語訳なしタイプ B もございます。スクロールダウンするとございますので好きな方をご利用下さい。

3[B] – The Battle of Dien Bien Phu



Version3 G1 11-3

- インドシナ
- The First Indochina War was an eight-year conflict in which French colonial rule in Vietnam was challenged by the insurrectionist Viet Minh army.
  - It culminated in 1954 in a battle at the French fortified base in the town of Dien Bien Phu.
  - After defending this remote jungle base for two months, French forces were overrun by troops, under the command of General Vo Nguyen Giap.
  - It was a defeat that effectively signaled the end of the French empire in Southeast Asia.
  - The French had established the isolated military base across the bottom of a valley in Dien Bien Province in 1953, hoping to disrupt Viet Minh supply lines.
  - General Henri Navarre, commander in chief of French forces in Indochina, then made the fatal error of trying to convert the base into a defensive stronghold, defying the base military precept that defenders should occupy higher ground.

**Further Questions**

\*Ask student to answer the question on their own at first. If the student can't answer correctly, have him look at the last page and read the "example answer" for the question. Have the student try to memorize the answer, if it's too long or difficult, you should divide the sentence into 2 or 3 parts to make it easier to remember. Once they have memorized the answer, the teacher should ask the question one last time so that the student can practice answering. Also if you find any mistakes, please mark the page and let me know ASAP.

- 1) When and where did the First Indochina War culminate?
- いっどこで、第一次インドシナ戦争が終わりましたか。  
*It culminated in 1954 in a battle at the French fortified base in the town of Dien Bien Phu.*
- 2) Why did the French establish a base in the valley in Dien Bien Province?
- フランス軍はなぜ、ディエンビエンの谷に基地を作ったのですか。  
*They were hoping to disrupt the Viet Minh supply lines.*
- Navarre and his advisers planned to lure Giap's forces into attacking the base at Dien Bien Phu, where the French were confident that their superior air-power, combined with the quantity and quality of their artillery would crush the Viet Minh.
- Consequently, the French stationed only 13,000 troops there while the Viet Minh had 50,000.

13. The results of this astonishing complacency were soon evident.
14. Giap stealthily moved his forces into the surrounding hills, encircling the base with an array of artillery that not only outclassed the French guns, but was extremely well camouflaged. When the battle began, French gunners could not counter the lethal onslaught, nor could they locate the Viet Minh artillery positions from the air.
15. Events took a grave turn for the French when the base's two airstrips—the besieged troops' lifeline for supplies—were put out of action by Viet Minh guns.

## Further Questions



16. **3) Why did the French station only 13,000 troops at Dien Bien Phu while the Viet Minh had 50,000?**
17. Viet Minh が 50,000人の軍隊を持っていた一方で、フランス軍がダイエンビエンフーに 13,000人の軍隊しか配置しなかったのはなぜですか。  
*They were confident that their superior air power, combined with the quantity and quality of their artillery would crush the Viet Minh.*
18. **4) What happened when the battle began?**
19. 戦いが始まったとき何が起こりましたか。  
*The French gunners could not counter the lethal onslaught.*
20. In the end, logistics carried the day for the Viet Minh. Giap's front line was able to rely upon thousands of human porters who brought tons of food and ammunition through the jungle on foot and by bicycle.
21. By contrast, the French, after losing their vital airstrips, had to rely on sporadic, inadequate airdrops of supplies from cargo planes hampered by adverse weather and anti-aircraft fire.
22. The frontal infantry assaults Giap finally used to attack the French perimeter resulted in horrifyingly high casualties for his troops.
23. Yet the Viet Minh commanders were unwavering in their commitment to gaining independence.
24. Such unity and purpose were lacking in the upper ranks of the French military.

## Further Questions



25. **5) What was Giap's front line able to rely upon?**
26. Giap の前線は、何に頼ることができましたか。  
*They were able to rely on thousands of human porters who brought tons of food and ammunition through the jungle on foot and by bicycle.*
27. **6) What did the frontal infantry assaults Giap finally used result in?**

28. Giap が最終的に使った前線の歩兵による急襲は、どのような結果になりましたか。

*They resulted in horrifyingly high casualties for his troops.*

29. According to historian Bernard Fall, the disagreement that emerged between Navarre and his subordinate General René Cogy, the commander in charge of troops in northern Vietnam, played a large part in the French defeat.

30. Cogy, despite having Dien Bien Phu within his area of command, did not share the more politically minded Navarre's conviction that a Viet Minh victory there would be a national disgrace for France.

31. Feeling that greater priority should be given to other military operations, Cogy was unwilling to commit the reinforcements desperately needed at the beleaguered base.

32. To exacerbate matters, the government in Paris offered little guidance to its generals in Vietnam.

33. By 1954, the French had abandoned military victory as a goal.

34. Instead, their main objective was to avoid defeat and thereby strengthen their position at the bargaining table.

35. This would allow them to negotiate a political settlement that would permit French forces to exit Vietnam with their honor intact—a dignified withdrawal rather than a rout.

36. Thanks to Dien Bien Phu, this failed utterly.

37. The base fell just one day before the scheduled peace talks between the French and Vietnamese began in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 8, all but guaranteeing a swift and humiliating removal of French forces in their entirety.

### Further Questions

38. 7) Why was Cogy unwilling to commit the reinforcements desperately needed at the beleaguered base?

39. Cogy はなぜ、包囲された基地でどうしても必要だった増強をしなかったのですか。

*He felt greater priority should be given to other military operations.*

40. 8) What was the main objective for France by 1954?

41. 1954年までに、フランスにとっての主な目的は何になりましたか。

*Their main objective was to avoid defeat and thereby strengthen their position at the bargaining table.*

42. Algeria-based French anti-colonialist writer Frantz Fanon believed that the Viet Minh victory took on a wider significance. In his 1961 book *The Wretched of the Earth*, he asserted that Dien Bien Phu was “no longer, strictly speaking, a Vietnamese victory,” but the start of the overthrow of colonial oppression worldwide.

43. Fanon claimed that for nations under Western colonial rule, “a Dien Bien Phu was now within reach of every colonized subject.”



44. While the battle did <sup>元気 (げんき) づける</sup> galvanize <sup>武力抵抗 (ぶりょくていこう)</sup> opposition to French rule in Algeria, which broke out in <sup>転機 (てんき)</sup> armed resistance six months later, Dien Bien Phu did not mark the worldwide watershed that Fanon had predicted, least of all in Vietnam itself.
45. Free of its French colonizer though it was, it became divided into two states as a result of peace talks.
46. Like other newly <sup>自治権 (じちけん) のある</sup> autonomous Asian and African countries, Vietnam then rapidly found itself caught up in the <sup>たくらみ</sup> machinations of the Cold War.
47. As the Soviet Union and the United States solicited allies, smaller states had little option but to choose sides in the <sup>超大国 (ちょうたいこく)</sup> super-powers' struggle for <sup>範囲 (はんい)</sup> spheres of influence.
48. In Vietnam, this meant the North fell under the influence of the Communist Soviets while the South was supported by the United States—a situation that would ultimately lead to the Vietnam War.

### Further Questions



49. **9) What happened six months after Dien Bien Phu?**
50. <sup>かげつご</sup> ディエンビエンフーの6ヶ月後、<sup>なに</sup> 何が起こりましたか。  
*Algeria broke out in armed resistance six months later.*
51. **10) What did the Vietnamese victory ultimately lead to in Vietnam?**
52. <sup>しょうり</sup> ベトナムの勝利は <sup>さいしゅうてき</sup> 最終的にベトナムで <sup>なに</sup> 何を <sup>ひきおこ</sup> 引き起こしましたか。  
*It ultimately led to the Vietnam War.*

### \*Choose the correct answer from these choices.

53. **(38) Why does the author of the passage accuse the French of showing “astonishing complacency”?**
54. このパッセージの著者はなぜフランスを、「<sup>おどろ</sup>驚くほどひとりまがり」だとしているのですか。
55. 1. They were convinced that their powerful artillery and airpower would <sup>～をやめさせる</sup> deter the Viet Minh from attempting to attack their base at Dien Bien Phu.
56. 2. They did not anticipate that Viet Minh troops could function effectively because they believed the Viet Minh would need airborne reinforcements.
57. 3. They overestimated the capacity of their own military forces and, as a result, were not in a position to deal with the attacks they faced from their enemy.
58. 4. They saw no need to study the geography of the entire Dien Bien Phu area because they <sup>予知 (よち) した</sup> foresaw the battle taking place within the confines of the valley
59. **(39) One of the principal reasons for General Vo Nuygen Giap's victory was that he**
60. Vo Nuygen Giap <sup>たいしょう</sup> 大将の <sup>しょうり</sup> 勝利の <sup>おも</sup> 主な理由の <sup>ひと</sup> 一つは、<sup>かれ</sup> 彼が
61. 1. had a battle plan that ensured his front-line forces were not only strategically positioned, but were also supplied by a reliable support system.

62. 2. took command of the base's airstrips early on in the battle, thereby halting the devastating French air attacks on Viet Minh artillery positions.
63. 3. limited his assaults on the better-trained French forces, deciding instead to wear them down by making them pursue his troops through the jungle.
64. 4. was quick to launch precise air attacks, which weakened the French defense and paved the way for a swift and effective infantry operation.

65. **(40) What was the basis of the dispute between General Henri Navarre and General René Cogny?**

66. Henri Navarre 大将と Rene Cogny 大将の論争の中心は何でしたか。

67. 1. Cogny, believing the base at Dien Bien Phu to be of utmost importance, was angered by Navarre's inability to plan a long-term strategy for its defense.
68. 2. Cogny felt that although Navarre spoke of the importance of Dien Bien Phu, he was in fact neglecting the battle in order to further his political ambitions.
69. 3. Navarre supported the French government's objective of securing a peace settlement, whereas Cogny believed victory at Dien Bien Phu was possible.
70. 4. Navarre feared the consequences of a defeat and was determined to defend the base at Dien Bien Phu, but Cogny would not dispatch more troops.

71. **(41) What can be said of Frantz Fanon's comments about the battle of Dien Bien Phu?**

72. ディエンビエンフーの戦いについての Frantz Fanon のコメントについてどのようなことが言えますか。

73. 1. He overstated the degree to which the Viet Minh had relied on the support of people living in other colonized nations to achieve their victory.
74. 2. He credited the battle with inspiring an uprising in Algeria, which in reality began while the outcome at Dien Bien Phu was still in doubt.
75. 3. He failed to anticipate the degree to which external pressures would limit the independence gained by formerly colonized countries.
76. 4. He did not recognize the important role communism had played in the Viet Minh's struggle to rid their country of colonial occupiers.

**Answers for "Further Questions"**



77. **1) When and where did the First Indochina War culminate?**

*It culminated in 1954 in a battle at the French fortified base in the town of Dien Bien Phu.*

78. **2) Why did the French establish a base in the valley in Dien Bien Province?**

*They were hoping to disrupt the Viet Minh supply lines.*

79. **3) Why did the French station only 13,000 troops at Dien Bien Phu while the Viet Minh had 50,000?**

*They were confident that their superior air power, combined with the quantity and quality of their artillery would crush the Viet Minh.*

80. 4) What happened when the battle began?

*The French gunners could not counter the lethal onslaught.*

81. 5) What was Giap's front line able to rely upon?

*They were able to rely on thousands of human porters who brought tons of food and ammunition through the jungle on foot and by bicycle.*

82. 6) What did the frontal infantry assaults Giap finally used result in?

*They resulted in horrifyingly high casualties for his troops.*

83. 7) Why was Coney unwilling to commit the reinforcements desperately needed at the beleaguered base?

*He felt greater priority should be given to other military operations.*

84. 8) What was the main objective for France by 1954?

*Their main objective was to avoid defeat and thereby strengthen their position at the bargaining table.*

85. 9) What happened six months after Dien Bien Phu?

*Algeria broke out in armed resistance six months later.*

86. 10) What did the Vietnamese victory ultimately lead to in Vietnam?

*It ultimately led to the Vietnam War.*

87. 解答: (38)3 (39)1 (40) 4 (41) 3

日本語訳なし

3[B] – The Battle of Dien Bien Phu

eTOC  
English Teachers On Call

Version3 G1 11-3

88. The First Indochina War was an eight-year conflict in which French colonial rule in Vietnam was challenged by the insurrectionist Viet Minh army.

89. It culminated in 1954 in a battle at the French fortified base in the town of Dien Bien Phu.

90. After defending this remote jungle base for two months, French forces were overrun by troops, under the command of General Vo Nguyen Giap.

91. It was a defeat that effectively signaled the end of the French empire in Southeast Asia.

92. The French had established the isolated military base across the bottom of a valley in Dien Bien Province in 1953, hoping to disrupt Viet Minh supply lines.

93. General Henri Navarre, commander in chief of French forces in Indochina, then made the fatal error of trying to convert the base into a defensive stronghold, defying the base military precept that defenders should occupy higher ground.

### Further Questions

94. 1) When and where did the First Indochina War culminate?

95. 2) Why did the French establish a base in the valley in Dien Bien Province?

96. Navarre and his advisers planned to lure Giap's forces into attacking the base at Dien Bien Phu, where the French were confident that their superior air-power, combined with the quantity and quality of their artillery would crush the Viet Minh.



97. Consequently, the French stationed only 13,000 troops there while the Viet Minh had 50,000.
98. The results of this astonishing complacency were soon evident.
99. Giap stealthily moved his forces into the surrounding hills, encircling the base with an array of artillery that not only outclassed the French guns, but was extremely well camouflaged. When the battle began, French gunners could not counter the lethal onslaught, nor could they locate the Viet Minh artillery positions from the air.
100. Events took a grave turn for the French when the base's two airstrips—the besieged troops' lifeline for supplies—were put out of action by Viet Minh guns.

### Further Questions English Teachers On Call

101. **3) Why did the French station only 13,000 troops at Dien Bien Phu while the Viet Minh had 50,000?**
102. **4) What happened when the battle began?**
103. In the end, logistics carried the day for the Viet Minh. Giap's front line was able to rely upon thousands of human porters who brought tons of food and ammunition through the jungle on foot and by bicycle.
104. By contrast, the French, after losing their vital airstrips, had to rely on sporadic, inadequate airdrops of supplies from cargo planes hampered by adverse weather and anti-aircraft fire.
105. The frontal infantry assaults Giap finally used to attack the French perimeter resulted in horrifyingly high casualties for his troops.
106. Yet the Viet Minh commanders were unwavering in their commitment to gaining independence.
107. Such unity and purpose were lacking in the upper ranks of the French military.

### Further Questions English Teachers On Call

108. **5) What was Giap's front line able to rely upon?**
109. **6) What did the frontal infantry assaults Giap finally used result in?**
110. According to historian Bernard Fall, the disagreement that emerged between Navarre and his subordinate General René Cogny, the commander in charge of troops in northern Vietnam, played a large part in the French defeat.
111. Cogny, despite having Dien Bien Phu within his area of command, did not share the more politically minded Navarre's conviction that a Viet Minh victory there would be a national disgrace for France.
112. Feeling that greater priority should be given to other military operations, Cogne was unwilling to commit the reinforcements desperately needed at the beleaguered base.
113. To exacerbate matters, the government in Paris offered little guidance to its generals in Vietnam.
114. By 1954, the French had abandoned military victory as a goal.
115. Instead, their main objective was to avoid defeat and thereby strengthen their position at the bargaining table.

116. This would allow them to negotiate a political settlement that would permit French forces to exit Vietnam with their honor intact—a dignified withdrawal rather than a rout.
117. Thanks to Dien Bien Phu, this failed utterly.
118. The base fell just one day before the scheduled peace talks between the French and Vietnamese began in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 8, all but guaranteeing a swift and humiliating removal of French forces in their entirety.

### Further Questions

119. 7) Why was Cogne unwilling to commit the reinforcements desperately needed at the beleaguered base?
120. 8) What was the main objective for France by 1954?
121. Algeria-based French anti-colonialist writer Frantz Fanon believed that the Viet Minh victory took on a wider significance. In his 1961 book *The Wretched of the Earth*, he asserted that Dien Bien Phu was “no longer, strictly speaking, a Vietnamese victory,” but the start of the overthrow of colonial oppression worldwide.
122. Fanon claimed that for nations under Western colonial rule, “a Dien Bien Phu was now within reach of every colonized subject.”
123. While the battle did galvanize opposition to French rule in Algeria, which broke out in armed resistance six months later, Dien Bien Phu did not mark the worldwide watershed that Fanon had predicted, least of all in Vietnam itself.
124. Free of its French colonizer though it was, it became divided into two states as a result of peace talks.
125. Like other newly autonomous Asian and African countries, Vietnam then rapidly found itself caught up in the machinations of the Cold War.
126. As the Soviet Union and the United States solicited allies, smaller states had little option but to choose sides in the super-powers’ struggle for spheres of influence.
127. In Vietnam, this meant the North fell under the influence of the Communist Soviets while the South was supported by the United States—a situation that would ultimately lead to the Vietnam War.

### Further Questions

128. 9) What happened six months after Dien Bien Phu?
129. 10) What did the Vietnamese victory ultimately lead to in Vietnam?

### \*Choose the correct answer from these choices.

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135. **(39)** One of the principal reasons for General Vo Nuygen Giap's victory was that he

136. 1. had a battle plan that ensured his front-line forces were not only strategically positioned, but were also supplied by a reliable support system.

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140. **(40)** What was the basis of the dispute between General Henri Navarre and General René Cogny?

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142. 2. Cogny felt that although Navarre spoke of the importance of Dien Bien Phu, he was in fact neglecting the battle in order to further his political ambitions.

143. 3. Navarre supported the French government's objective of securing a peace settlement, whereas Cogny believed victory at Dien Bien Phu was possible.

144. 4. Navarre feared the consequences of a defeat and was determined to defend the base at Dien Bien Phu, but Cogny would not dispatch more troops.

145. **(41)** What can be said of Frantz Fanon's comments about the battle of Dien Bien Phu?

146. 1. He overstated the degree to which the Viet Minh had relied on the support of people living in other colonized nations to achieve their victory.

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149. 4. He did not recognize the important role communism had played in the Viet Minh's struggle to rid their country of colonial occupiers.

## Answers for "Further Questions"



150. **1) When and where did the First Indochina War culminate?**

*It culminated in 1954 in a battle at the French fortified base in the town of Dien Bien Phu.*

151. 2) Why did the French establish a base in the valley in Dien Bien Province?  
*They were hoping to disrupt the Viet Minh supply lines.*

152. 3) Why did the French station only 13,000 troops at Dien Bien Phu while the Viet Minh had 50,000?  
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*The French gunners could not counter the lethal onslaught.*

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*They were able to rely on thousands of human porters who brought tons of food and ammunition through the jungle on foot and by bicycle.*

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*He felt greater priority should be given to other military operations.*

157. 8) What was the main objective for France by 1954?  
*Their main objective was to avoid defeat and thereby strengthen their position at the bargaining table.*

158. 9) What happened six months after Dien Bien Phu?  
*Algeria broke out in armed resistance six months later.*

159. 10) What did the Vietnamese victory ultimately lead to in Vietnam?  
*It ultimately led to the Vietnam War.*

160. 解答: (38)3 (39)1 (40) 4 (41) 3

