

# The Sisters Who Made Vietnam Free

Vietnam is a very old country. It started over 2,300 years ago. About 2,000 years ago, China tried to make Vietnam part of China.

The Chinese government had a tax that made many people in Vietnam very poor. In the year 40 AD there was a Vietnamese woman named Trung Trac. She and her husband studied ways to fight the Chinese army. Then, Chinese soldiers killed Trung's husband.

Trung and her sister started an army, and found 80,000 people to join it. They also chose 36 women to join the army. One of the women was their mother. They made these women *generals*. The Trung sisters were also generals. *Legends* say they fought on the back of elephants.



*The Trung Sisters*

The sisters stopped the tax that made people poor. The army fought for the next three years. The army was very strong, but the Chinese army had more soldiers and better *weapons*. The Vietnamese army lost in 43 AD.

Some legends say that the Trung sisters *drowned* in a river, because they would not let the Chinese army take them. Other legends say they flew into the clouds. Today there are many stories, poems, songs, and *monuments* to the Trung sisters. Some people say that if the Trung sisters did not fight, there would be no country called Vietnam today.

## Vocabulary

1. *40 AD* – The year 40. “I was born in the year 1980 AD.”
2. *generals* – noun – People who lead an army.
3. *Legend* - noun – A story from a long time ago. Some are true, and some are not true.
4. *weapon* – noun – Things you use to hurt people. “A gun is a weapon we use today.”
5. *drown* – verb – To die in the water because you can't breathe.
6. *monument* – noun – A building made to remember someone or something.

## Vocabulary Practice

Vocabulary	Definition
1. __. <i>general</i>	A. A story from a long time ago
2. __. <i>drown</i>	B. The Trung Sisters fought on the backs of these animals
3. __. <i>weapon</i>	C. To die in the water because you can't breathe
4. __. <i>monument</i>	D. People who lead an army
5. __. <i>Legend</i>	E. A building made to remember someone or something
6. __. _____	F. Things you use to hurt people

## Story Questions

1. When did the Trung Sisters live? What did they do?
2. What surprised you in this story?
3. Do you know any stories like this? Who were the Trung Sisters for your country?