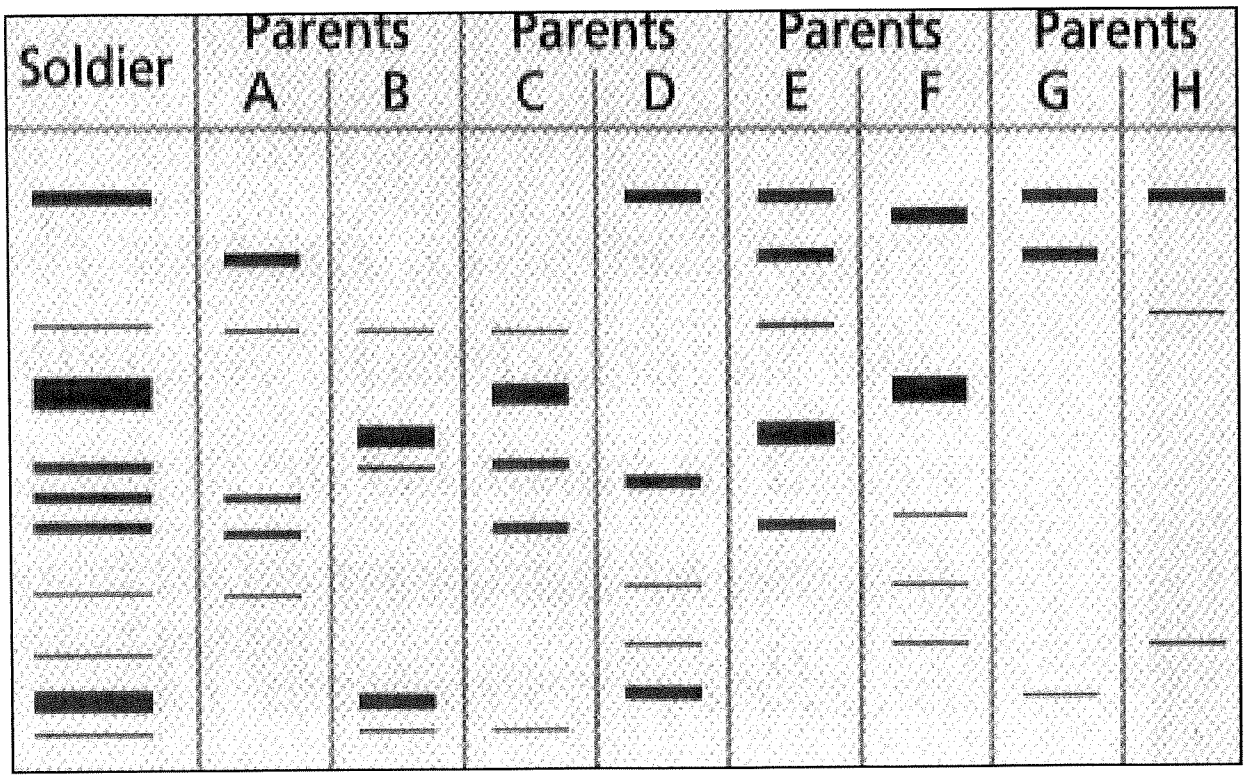
Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

"The Unknown Soldier"

BACKGROUND: An unidentified soldier from the Vietnam War who had been placed in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery was identified through DNA fingerprinting. The soldier could have been one of four possible individuals. A DNA sample from his body was analyzed. The DNA from the parents of the four suspected soldiers was analyzed. The diagram shows a DNA fingerprint pattern analysis similar to the one that was actually done. Find the correct match between the soldier's DNA fingerprint pattern and those of his parents. Remember, a child's DNA is a combination of parental DNA.

Questions:

1. Which parental DNA matched the unknown soldier? How did the DNA pattern allow you to decide?

2. What percent of the soldier's DNA matched his father's DNA? His mother's? Explain why.

3. Could an exact identification have been made if only one parent were alive? Explain why