

Teacher Version of Portrait Cards: Vietnamese Refugees

Lesson Two

Extension Activity for Lesson Two:

- 1) Write a timeline with 3 sections on the board, divided into 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.
- 2) Form student groups of 3 or 4. Assign or have each student pick a group job: a) Timeline locator; b) Reader; c) Reporter(s).
- 3) Give out one Portrait Card to each group.
- 4) Help students with the pronunciation of names.
- 5) Have student groups read the card and discuss the following questions:
 - a) What challenges do you think this person or group have had to face during their immigration and settlement in the U.S.?
 - b) What challenges can you think of that this person or group will face in their future?
 - c) If you can tell by the card, explain what contribution(s) this person or group has made in the U.S.
- 6) The reporters should each choose one of these questions to report back to the class. The Reader should prepare to read the Portrait Card to the rest of the class. The Timeline Locator should prepare to explain where in the timeline this person or group fits.

After students have read/shared their Portrait Cards, have them look over the last page of the “Vietnamese American Timeline” (from 1975 through 1995) and relate those dates to their knowledge of refugees from Lesson One and this lesson, noting which individuals came during the first wave right after the Fall of Saigon in 1975, and who came in later waves. (Note: Pages 2 and 3 of the Timeline can provide additional background information on the immigration waves from Vietnam.)

A note about names:

Vietnamese names are traditionally written with the family or surname listed first, followed by the middle name and then the first name.

However, to adapt to English tradition, some Vietnamese have an English first name, which they list first, along with middle name and last name, respectively.

Names here are listed in the English tradition unless otherwise noted. Also, an approximate pronunciation of each name is given (the Vietnamese use the English alphabet, but some letter sounds are pronounced differently than the English letter sounds. Also, accent marks used to further identify Vietnamese pronunciations are not used here).

Saigon Restaurant –The Nguyen Family



Two years after arriving in Seattle, the Nguyen family opened the Saigon Restaurant in the Pike Place market. It was the first Vietnamese restaurant in Seattle. This portrait was taken on opening day, May 21, 1977.

Photo courtesy of the Nguyen family.

Nguyen (“ng –win” or “win”) is the family name. (“ng” is the sound you hear at the end of the word “king”). “Nguyen” is one syllable but drawn out a bit.

Do Kim Doan



Do Kim Doan and son Quynh Trung Duong are pictured in a refugee camp in the Philippines in 1982. The Philippines, along with Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong housed first asylum camps for many of the “boat people,” the second wave of refugees from Vietnam. Refugee camps were closed in Asia in the mid-1990s despite thousands of refugees still living there.

Photo courtesy of WLAM Collections.

Do Kim Doan (“doe kim dowan”) - Doan is the family name. Quynh Trung Duong (“quinn chung zu-ong.” In this word, the “D” sounds like a “z.”

Kristie Da-Ngoc Nguyen



Kristie (pictured fourth from left and next to her mother) escaped with her family by boat from a fishing village in Vietnam in 1978. Their small motorboat, with about 30 people, soon hit a storm at sea and capsized. Although Kristie, her three siblings and her father were rescued by another vessel, her mother and baby sister perished at sea. They arrived in Malaysia after 3 more days of traveling by boat. When Kristie came to the United States, she was 11 years old. She recalls, "At dinnertime, we would place an extra setting of food for Mother, to remember her."

Photo (taken in 1974), courtesy of Kristie Da-Ngoc Nguyen.

Kristie Da-Ngoc Nguyen ("da-knock ng-win or win"). Nguyen is her family name.

Choy Vong



The photo at right shows Choy in 2009 after he had worked as a teacher in the Kent and Seattle area for over 20 years. The photo at left is Choy's school photo when he was a teacher's assistant for the 1981-82 school year.



Choy left Vietnam in 1978 on a small fishing boat. When the communist government came to power in 1975, the only way to leave Vietnam was to escape by sea. Since Choy did not have a boat, he decided to learn to be a mechanic so he could join a small craft crew and leave Vietnam. A year after coming to the United States, he was offered a job as a teacher's assistant at his younger sister's school when a teacher realized that Choy was bilingual in English and Vietnamese. In the summer of 1983, he moved from Bremerton to Seattle to enroll in the University of Washington's teacher certification program and has since taught ESL (English as a Second Language) in the Kent and Seattle area for the last 22 years.

Photos courtesy of Choy Vong

Choy is the first name, and Vong is the last name.

Chu Hung and Lester Tran



Pictured above left are Chu Hung and her son, Lester Tran at the naturalization ceremony at the Seattle Center on the day that Chu received her U.S. citizenship in the late 1980's. The other photo was taken in 1982 of Lester Tran shortly after arriving in the United States from Vietnam, enjoying the family's first TV set.

Photo courtesy of Lester Tran.

Chu Hung ("ju hoong") and Lester Tran ("chun").

The Amerasian Homecoming Act



The 1987 Amerasian Homecoming Act allowed many Amerasian children (children of an American who was stationed in Vietnam during the war) to come to the U.S. Pictured in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Olympia are some members of the Interaction Amerasian Project in Seattle.

Photo courtesy of Sindy Nguyen.

Laihong Tran

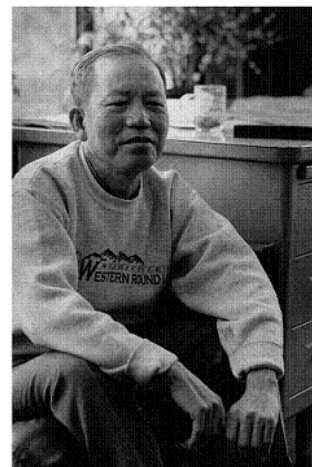


Laihong Tran was featured at the Wing Luke Asian Museum in 1992 in an exhibition titled "Art on Silk" that displayed her one-of-a-kind hand-painted silk creations. Laihong was born in Hue, the old imperial capital of Vietnam, and learned to paint on silk while in Vietnam. In 1975, she came to the United States as part of the first wave of Vietnamese refugees, but continued to preserve the beauty of her homeland by incorporating the flowers and nature scenes of Vietnam into her art.

Photo courtesy of Dean Wong.

Laihong Tran ("lye-hong chun"). Laihong is her first name, Tran is the family name.

Tran Trong Thuc



Tran Trong Thuc was a former political prisoner in Vietnam. This is a quote from his interview: "I spent a total of six years in two prison camps in the South (Vietnam). It was miserable. I was starving. I worked every day cutting trees and farming by hand. After I was released, I could not do anything. There were security police following me, step by step. I came to Seattle in 1994 with my wife and two children. When I came here, I felt that this is a country of freedom. But I am getting old. Even though I am capable of working, I am pessimistic about finding a job."

Photo courtesy of Dean Wong, 1995.

Tran Trong Thuc's name is listed in the traditional Vietnamese order. Tran ("chun") is the family name; Thuc ("took") is his first name, and Trong ("chjong") is his middle name.