

PROJECT YELLOW DRESS

PYD

Vietnamese Boat People Interview Project

Disclaimer

The focus of this interview is to learn more about the experiences of Vietnamese Boat People, Southeast Asian refugees who fled after the Vietnam War. Due to the nature of this interview, we want to make sure that the interviewee and interviewer are aware that some of these questions can trigger traumatic memories and cause emotional and mental distress. Therefore, we want to make sure that the interviewee feels safe during the interview, and knows that he/she has the right to skip a question/topic and even stop the interview at any time.

Guidelines for Interviewers

- Please show the utmost respect to your interviewee.
- Create a safe space, and make sure you both are comfortable. Discuss points of discussion before the interview, making sure you both are on the same page.
- Acknowledge that it is not your job to interpret their experience, but rather to listen and help them share their own story.
- No two stories are the same, so do not try to force the interview into a specific narrative.
- Encourage interviewees to open up to you, but do not pry. Recognize the limits. Make sure the interviewee knows that they can pass on any question or topic they feel uncomfortable addressing.
- Try to make your questions open-ended so the answer is not just "yes" or "no."
- If you ask for or are shown photos or documents, please ask to make sure it is okay if you share them on the PYD website.
- At the end of the interview, remember to thank your interviewee. If you can, please provide us with his/her contact information so PYD can send out a thank you card to your interviewee :)

Maps

After the list of sample questions, there will be several blank maps. While some people prefer to express themselves using the written word, others may find visuals to be helpful; some may even like the combination of the two. The first map, which is a close up of Southeast Asia, can be used to visually plot your interviewee's journey from Southeast Asia as a Vietnamese Boat People (or immigrant), and the second map, a world map, can be used to document your interviewee's family's diaspora. However, the interviewees can also use or add other maps they like.

Interview Questions

Every interview should be different, adjusting to the needs and responses of each interviewee. The following questions are meant more as suggestions for talking points.

Introduction

- Please introduce yourself.
- What drew you to this project?

Childhood

- Where were you born? Please describe your hometown.
- What was your childhood like?
- What is your favorite memory of Vietnam?

War

- What are your first memories of the War?
- Where were you during the Fall of Saigon, and what was your reaction?
- What led to your decision to leave Vietnam?
- How did you escape Vietnam?
- Sample discussion topics:
 - fleeing Vietnam
 - sea/land journey
 - points of asylum/refugee camps
 - sponsorship

New Life

- How, when, and where did you arrive?
- What was your first impression of the country you ultimately immigrated to?
- What was your transition into your new life like?
- Sample points of discussion:
 - school/work
 - first day
 - first job
 - language classes
 - new customs
 - presence of Southeast Asian or Asian communities
- What is your most vivid memory from this time?
- What is your life like now?

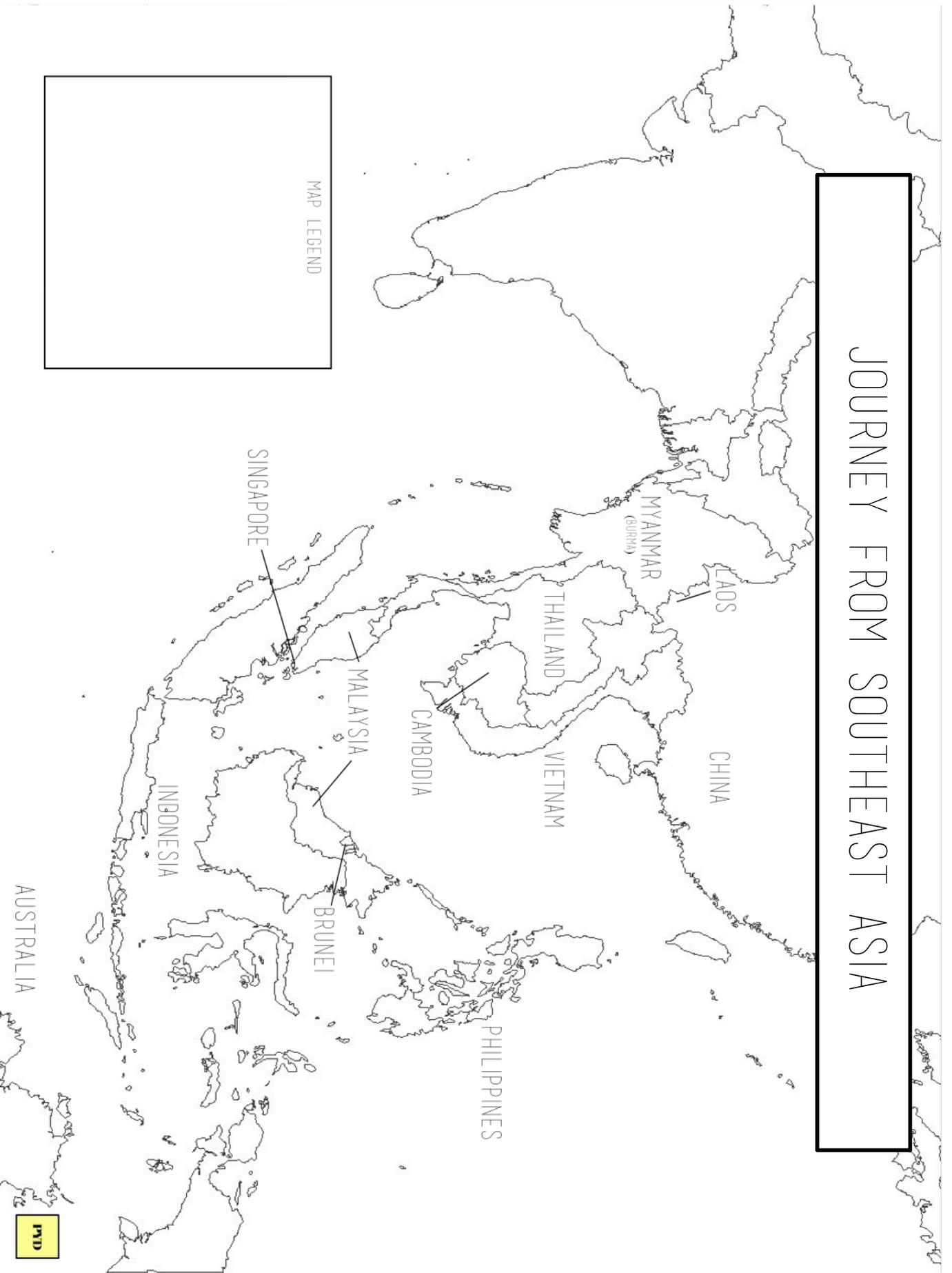
Reflection

- What does being a "Vietnamese Boat Person" mean to you?
- What do you want future generations to learn from the experiences of VBP?
- Do you have any goals or dreams for Asian American and/or Southeast Asian American communities?

Free-Response

- Is there anything you would like to say or add?

JOURNEY FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA



MAP LEGEND

AUSTRALIA

PMD

MY FAMILY'S DIASPORIC MOVEMENT

