



Let's Get Started

Everyone has a story to share. Follow these four easy steps to get started on sharing your story on the VBP Journeys Digital Collective.

1. Review the resources and video tutorials available on the Journeys Toolkit
2. Create an account and download a copy of the VBP Journeys story submission form and get familiar with the questions. The form on our platform does not do auto spelling or grammar corrections. We recommend you save your own draft using Google docs or MS Word and copy and paste into the form when you are ready.
3. Review the quick tips below on how to gather key dates, locations and photos.
4. If you want to submit a story about a family member, from our experience, sharing is an ongoing process. So don't rush it! Take this opportunity to immerse yourself in their experiences and go through family photos together. Take advantage of the VBP Conversation Kit which provides a set of questions to help you start the dialogue. You are likely to have multiple conversations. We recommend recording them on your phone if you can, and keeping a journal to jot down notes along the way.

Quick Tips

1. **Who is this story about:** You can choose to write about yourself, a family member, friend or your entire family's journey. Please note the data requested in the form such as locations and dates are geared towards an individual's experience or a shared experience. If your story is about your family that migrated at different points and times, pick one person that is the leading character to input dates, locations and other data points.
2. **Dates & Locations:** The form will ask for important dates and places - for example birthplace, departure dates and locations, and refugee camp locations. While we understand that not all journeys are linear, please try to respond with as

much information as you have, and choose the dates and locations that have the most significance to your story.

If you don't have these dates and locations readily available, we encourage you to ask family members questions to gather this information. The more dates and locations you can contribute will enable your story to be mapped and searchable for readers. For future versions of the collective, we hope the stories can connect people through shared hometowns, departure points, refugee camp locations, resettlement locations etc.

3. **Photo(s):** To share a story, you are required to upload a photo that is significant to the story. Be prepared to upload at least one photo (in JPEG OR PNG format) that will serve as the cover of your story. You can upload up to 10 images that will appear in a slideshow with your story submission.

Some examples are: family photos (from the past or present), something brought from Vietnam, handed down between generations, or even something new that reminds you of your family's diaspora story. Other examples can be as simple as photographs of places, a family recipe, heirloom jewelry, or an article of clothing.

If you are gathering a story from someone, ask the person if there are items that trigger memories about their story.

4. **The Story:** Every submission requires a title and quick summary. You can tell a comprehensive story of the journey from Vietnam, or choose to write a short essay about a portion of your journey or something related to your photo(s). In each tab of the submission form, you will also have the opportunity to share details on each step of the journey. For example, the refugee camp you arrived at and describe specifically what that was like or what you remember most.

You can choose to record a conversation and upload the audio or video to a Youtube account and submit a link.

If you are gathering a story from someone, take a look at some sample questions below to help you get started. Be sure to check out the Journeys Toolkit and take a look at the Tutorial series for ideas. We also encourage you to Explore the Journeys site and take a look at some of the posted stories as examples.

Sample questions during story gathering

We encourage you to use our Conversation Kit

<https://www.vietnameseboatpeople.org/share> which was designed to help you start the

dialogue. Below are some sample questions you can ask family members that will help you get started.

Dates & Locations:

- Where were you born? And/or where do you grow up in Vietnam?
- When did you leave Vietnam and from what city?
- Did you land in different countries or refugee camps along the journey?
- Where did you resettle to finally and in what year?

Memories of Vietnam:

- What do you remember about living in Vietnam? What was your favorite aspect of living in Vietnam? What was the hardest?
- How old were you when you (your family) left Vietnam? What do you remember the most?
- What was the motivation for leaving Vietnam? What was the hope?

Leaving and Adjusting:

- Who did you come with and who did you leave behind?
- What was the most difficult part about leaving?
- What was the journey like?
- Did you stay at a refugee camp, where and what was that like?

Traditions & Reflections:

- What Vietnamese traditions have you continued with your family and/or children? And why are they important to you?