

"GET CURIOUS: MY FAMILY'S STORIES" KIT




Names of Family Members:



What is this kit about?

Get curious about your family members' experiences and memories!

This conversation kit is for you and your family members, including grandparents and extended family who may not live together with you. Use this kit to:

-  Learn more about your family's identity and heritage;
-  Have inter-generational conversations and share stories with each other; and
-  Discover something new about each other!



What is this kit about?

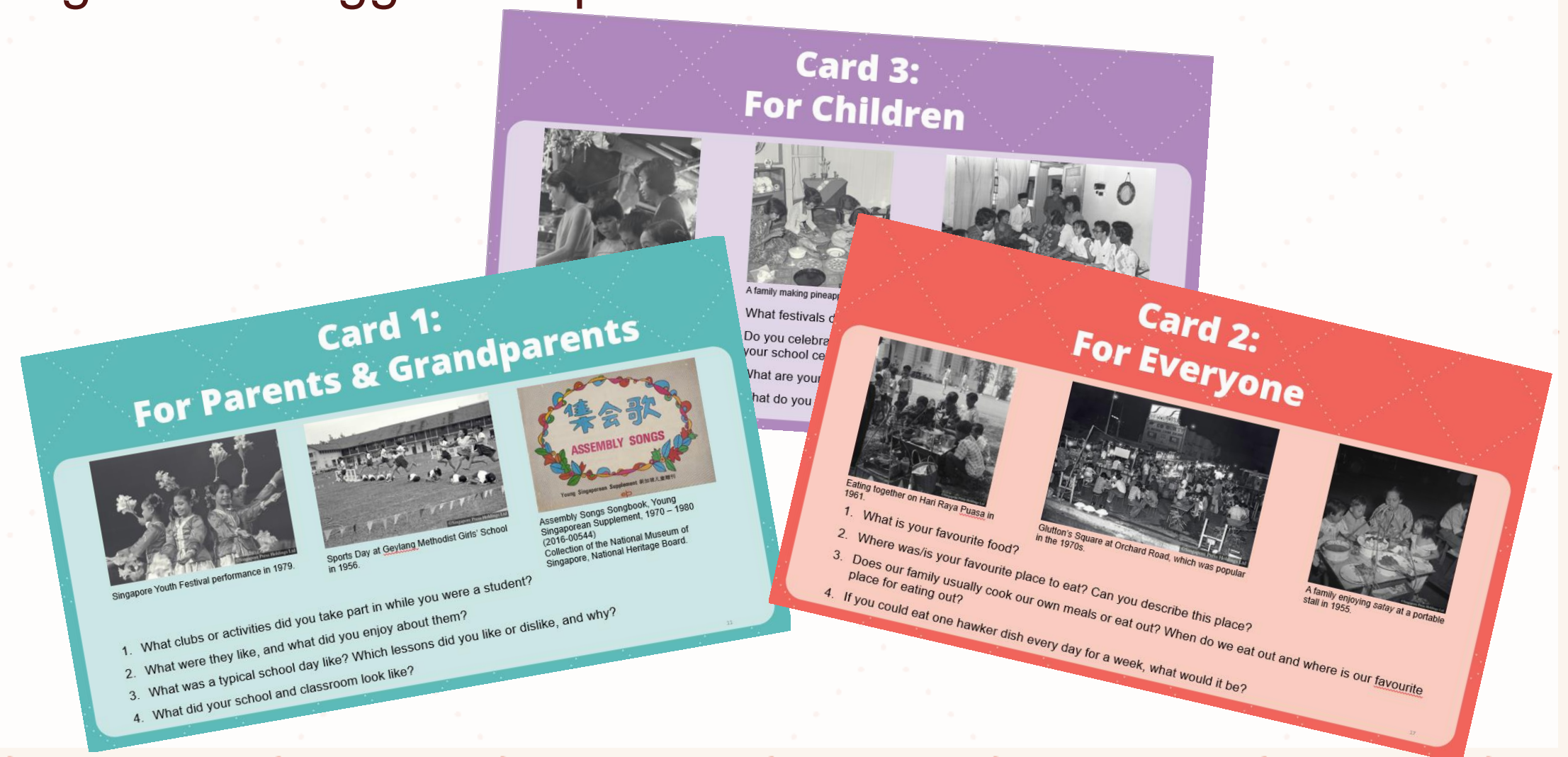
This kit contains a number of artefact images and photographs from *Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present*, a special exhibition that will open at the National Museum towards the end of 2020.

Presented in collaboration with The Straits Times, *Home, Truly* explores moments and experiences in our history that express who we are as Singaporeans, and aims to encourage reflection and conversation on what it means to be Singaporean.

What is in this kit?

Use the tools in this kit to start a family conversation:

1. A step-by-step preparation guide (see below)
2. Conversation cards with topics, images and suggested questions



Get ready!

Before you begin:

1. Discuss with your family members and decide:

- a) **Who** will take part in this conversation?
- b) **Who** will be the main story collector?
- c) **How** do you plan to conduct this conversation?

- Face to face, or over a phone/video call?

d) **Where** and **when** will you have this conversation?

- Choose a time of the day when everyone can set aside 1 to 2 hours to participate in this activity.
- Find a comfortable spot in the house to sit, and prepare your favourite drinks or snacks – make this experience something to look forward to!




One Step Further:

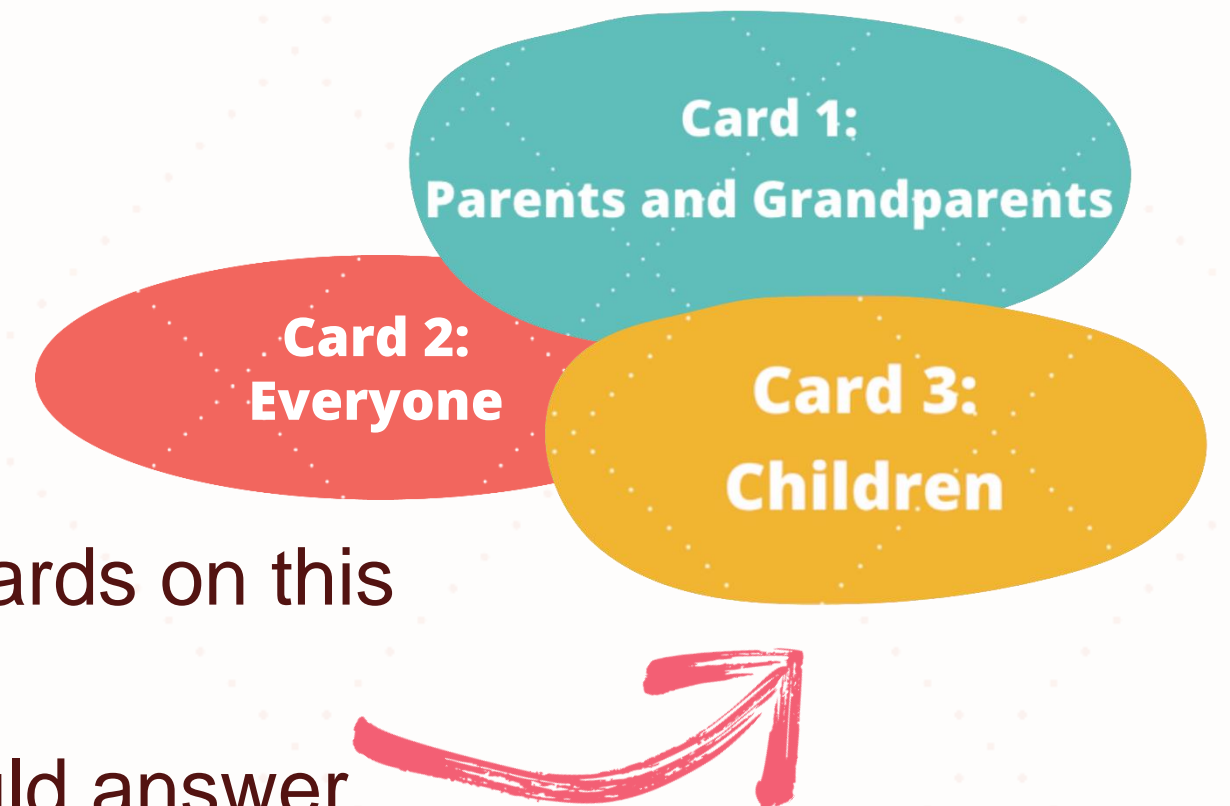
Plan to collect your family stories, by taking notes or making a voice recording (Zoom has a recording function for this)!

Let's begin!

Two ways to play with the conversation cards:

(A) By topic

1. Turn to the Menu on page 9. 
2. Nominate someone in the group to choose a topic!
3. Search through the stack of conversation cards to find the cards on this topic. (There should be three!)
4. Flip over the card. The top right corner will tell you who should answer the questions. Make sure that everyone has a chance to share!



(B) Free and easy

1. Shuffle the deck and go through the cards one by one!

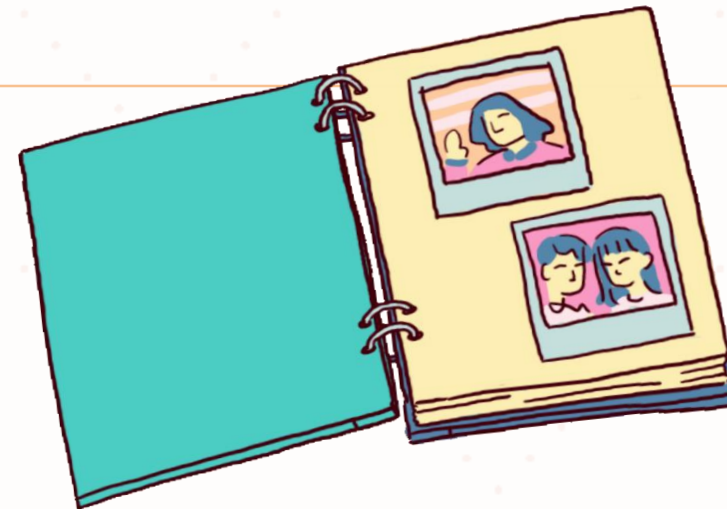
Let's begin!

After your conversation:

Think about what new things you have learnt about each other.
Which was your favourite story?

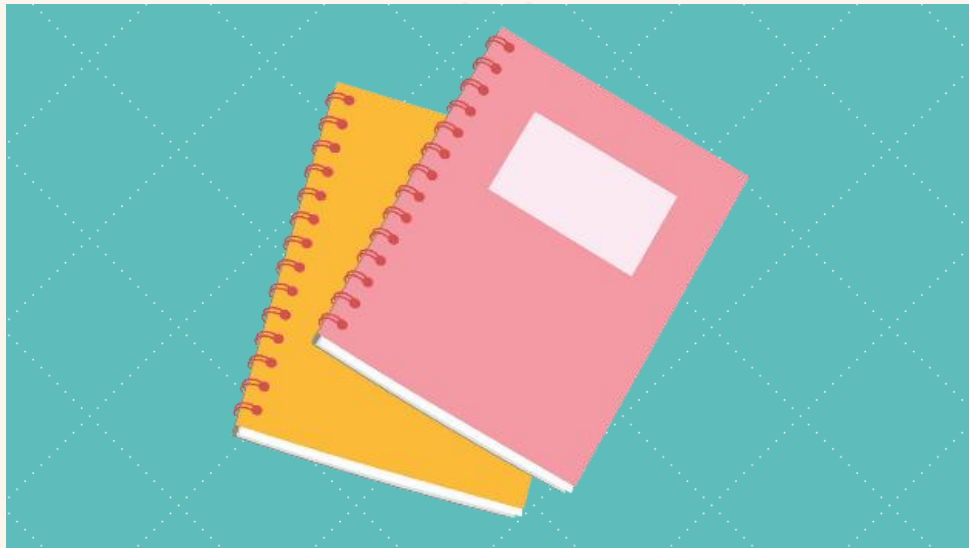
One Step Further:

Make a scrapbook of your family stories for safekeeping, together with any photographs you can find.



READY, GET SET, GO!

Choose a topic to talk about!



School



Food



Recreation



Festivals



Popular Culture



Floods & Fires



SCHOOL

Card 1:

For Parents & Grandparents



Singapore Youth Festival performance in 1979.



Sports Day at Geylang Methodist Girls' School in 1956.



Assembly Songs Songbook, Young Singaporean Supplement, 1970 – 1980 (2016-00544)
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board.

1. What clubs or activities did you take part in while you were a student?
2. What were they like, and what did you enjoy about them?
3. What was a typical school day like? Which lessons did you like or dislike, and why?
4. What did your school and classroom look like?

Card 2: For Everyone



Recess at Teck Ghee Primary in 1983.



Start of the school holidays at River Valley English School in 1975.



Play-item, 1960s (1997-00509)
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board

1. What was/is your recess like?
2. What did/do you usually eat or do during recess?
3. What were/are some of the games you played/play with your schoolmates?
4. How did/do you spend your school holidays?
5. What was/is your favourite thing about the school holidays?

Card 3: For Children



Students at the National Library in Stamford Road in 1973.



River Valley English School students checking their examination results in 1967.



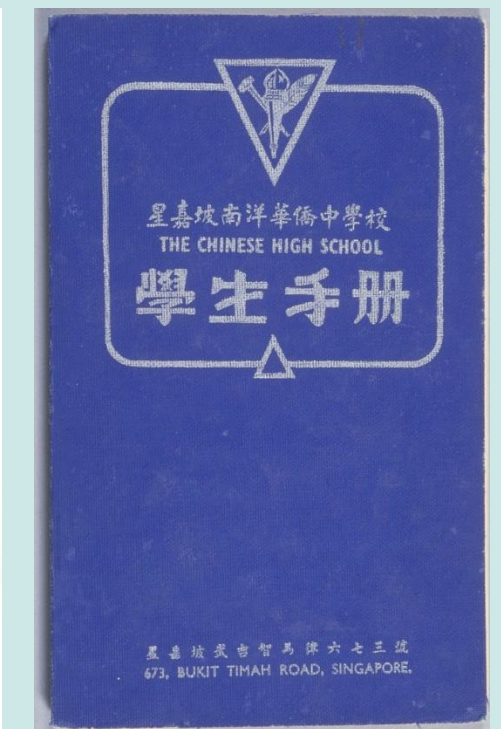
Left: Maha Bodhi Primary School classroom writing desk, c1950s–1960s

(2012-00490)

Right: Chinese High School report book, 1950s

(2001-00260)

Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board



1. What is/are your favourite lesson(s), and why?
2. Do you have any favourite teacher(s)? What are they like?
3. What are some interesting things that you have learnt recently?
4. What do you love most about school?

SCHOOL

Congratulations on completing this section!
[Click here to go back to the list of topics.](#)



FOOD

Card 1:

For Parents & Grandparents



Eating together on Hari Raya Puasa in 1961.



Glutton's Square at Orchard Road, which was popular in the 1970s.



A family enjoying *satay* at a portable stall in 1955.

1. Where was/were your favourite place(s) to eat out in the past?
2. Is/are this/these place(s) still around?
3. Can you share some fond memories of eating with your family or friends at this/these place(s)? Describe some of the sounds and smells of this/these place(s).
4. What are some differences between hawker stalls now and then?

Card 2: For Everyone



Eating together on Hari Raya Puasa in 1961.



Glutton's Square at Orchard Road, which was popular in the 1970s.



A family enjoying *satay* at a portable stall in 1955.

1. What is your favourite food?
2. Where was/is your favourite place to eat? Can you describe this place?
3. Does our family usually cook our own meals or eat out? When do we eat out and where is our favourite place for eating out?
4. If you could eat one hawker dish every day for a week, what would it be?

Card 3: For Children



Making love letters for Chinese New Year.



A family weaving *ketupat* casings using coconut leaves.



A mother making dumplings with her son at her hawker stall. National Heritage Board, 2019

1. Who is the best cook in the family?
2. What is/are your favourite dish(es) made by them?
3. Have you tried cooking or making dishes with your family or friends before? What is one dish you would like to try making with your family?

FOOD

Congratulations on completing this section!
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RECREATION

Card 1:

For Parents & Grandparents



A recreated "drive-in cinema" experience at the National Museum's Voices of Singapore gallery.



The National Theatre, c1970 (2008-04219)
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board ©John Hinde Archive

1. Where did you enjoy going to for fun and leisure? Who did you usually go with, and what did you do there?
2. Are these places still around today?
3. What were cinemas, theatres, and concert halls like in the past? Are they similar to what we have today? If not, how are they different?
4. What shows did you watch at these places? How much did a movie/show/performance ticket cost in the past?
5. Have you performed in front of a crowd before? Where was this performance held, and what was your role in this performance?

Card 2: For Everyone



Great World Amusement Park in 1967.



The entrance of Haw Par Villa, 1970s–1980s
(1994-05601)
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board



The Prudential Marina Bay Carnival in 2017.

1. Have you been to a theme park before? What was your experience like?
2. What was/is your favourite ride/activity in the theme park?
3. How was/is the theme park you have visited similar/different from the theme park that other family members have visited?
4. Did/do you have to pay to enter the theme park or take the rides?

Card 3: For Children



An outing at the Botanic Gardens.



Van Kleeef Aquarium.



The Singapore Zoo in 2012. Picture from Jeremy Ho

1. Have you been to an aquarium, zoo or park?
2. Who did you visit this/these place(s) with?
3. Where was it, and what was it like?
4. What did you enjoy about this/these place(s)?

RECREATION

Congratulations on completing this section!
[Click here to go back to the list of topics.](#)



FESTIVALS

Card 1:

For Parents & Grandparents



A family all dressed up for Deepavali celebrations in 1962.



A Chinese New Year outing in 1957.



A family celebrating Hari Raya Puasa in 2013.

1. As a child, did you look forward to these festivals? Where did you usually go?
2. How did you and your family prepare to celebrate a festival in the past? How is it different today?
3. How has the celebration of the festival changed for you over the years – as a child, an adult and a grandparent?

Card 2: For Everyone



Shopping for mooncakes in Chinatown in 1974.



A family making pineapple tarts in 1969.



Celebrating Hari Raya with friends in 1977.

1. What is your favourite cultural festival in Singapore and why?
2. What do you look forward to the most during these cultural festivals and celebrations?
3. Have you participated in a different cultural group's festivals and celebrations? Can you describe the experience?

Card 3: For Children



Shopping for mooncakes in Chinatown in 1974.



A family making pineapple tarts in 1969.



Celebrating Hari Raya with friends in 1977.

1. What festivals do you celebrate and how do you celebrate them?
2. Do you celebrate some of these festivals in school, and how does your school celebrate them?
3. What are your favourite festive snacks?
4. What do you like most about the festival celebration(s)?

FESTIVALS

Congratulations on completing this section!
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POPULAR CULTURE

Card 1: For Parents & Grandparents



Rediffusion set (b) (2016-00342)
Collection of the National Museum of
Singapore, National Heritage Board



Setron radio (2014-00598)
Collection of the National Museum of
Singapore, National Heritage Board



Crowd preparing to watch the first television
broadcast in Singapore in 1963.

1. What was watching television like in the past? Can you share more about your experience?
2. Who were the popular local or non-local singers of your time?
3. What device did you use to listen to music in the past? Can you share what the experience was like?

Card 2: For Everyone



Setron Deluxe Model Television Set, 1970s
(2016-00289)
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board



English vinyl record of "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" by
Lisa Lim and live band The Stylers, AEP-1091, c. 1960s
(2008-02721)
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board

1. What did your first television look like?
2. What are some local TV programmes you have watched? Can you sing a theme song from one of the local TV shows?
3. Can you name some local singers and their songs? What are your favourite songs that are sung by these local singers?

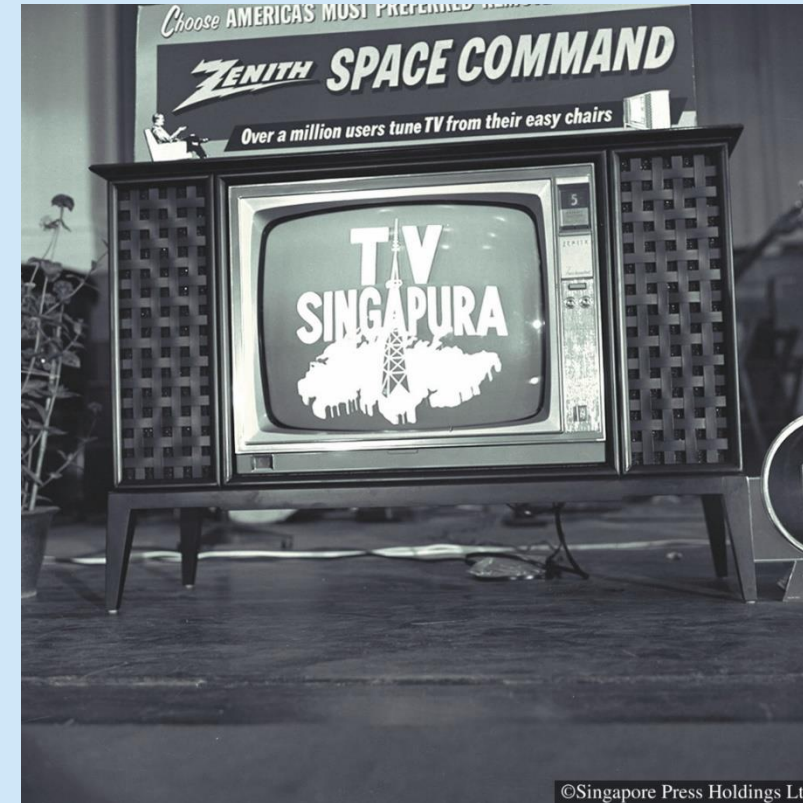


Young Songwriters Society poster,
1988 (2016-00285)
Collection of the National Museum of
Singapore, National Heritage Board

Card 3: For Children



Setron Deluxe Model Television Set, 1970s
(2016-00289)
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board



Opening of Television Singapura in 1963.

1. What is your favourite TV show? What do you like about it?
2. Where do you watch shows or cartoons these days?
3. What are some of the songs you listen to today?
4. What do you use to play songs these days?

POPULAR CULTURE

Congratulations on completing this section!
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FLOODS & FIRES

Card 1:

For Parents & Grandparents



A village on fire on New Year's Day in 1976.

1. Have you ever experienced or witnessed a fire? Can you describe what happened?
2. If not, have you heard about one? What happened, and how did everyone feel?
3. What usually caused the fires?
4. If a fire broke out at home, what are three items you would save and why?

Card 2: For Everyone



A flooded barber shop in 1957.



A farmer saving his livestock during a flood in 1978.



Piggybacking through the flood in Orchard in 2010.

1. Have you ever been caught in a flood or witnessed a flood? Where did the flood happen, what was it like, and how did you feel about it?
2. Do/Did the floods happen once, once in a while or frequently?
3. If you have never experienced a flood, have you heard any stories about floods?
4. What caused/causes floods, and what do you think we can do if a flood happens?

Card 3: For Children



A village on fire on New Year's Day in 1976.

1. Have you ever heard of any fire incidents in Singapore? What happened at that time?
2. How can we prevent fire outbreaks in our house?
3. If a fire broke out at home, what would you do? What are three items you would save and why?

FLOODS & FIRES

Congratulations on completing this section!
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