

N S  
National Museum  
of Singapore

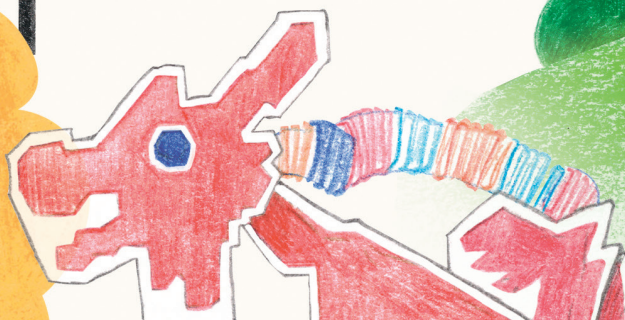


A parent/educator  
guide for use with  
children aged 4 - 8

# Home, Truly

Growing Up with Singapore,  
1950s to the Present

My Photo Scrapbook



Scan the QR code above for  
more family activities, including  
a tuckshop conversation corner  
and crossword puzzle related to  
this exhibition!

### A Note for Parents/Educators:

*Home, Truly* is an exhibition presented by the National Museum of Singapore, in collaboration with The Straits Times. It explores moments and experiences in our history that express who we are as Singaporeans, and aims to encourage reflections and conversations on what it means to be Singaporeans.

This resource highlights ten artefacts or images to look out for and aims to help children understand some of the shared experiences familiar to older generations. As you navigate the exhibition with your little ones:

- 1 Spark their interest using the provided "I wonder" questions for each highlight



- 3 Share the information provided on the adjacent page

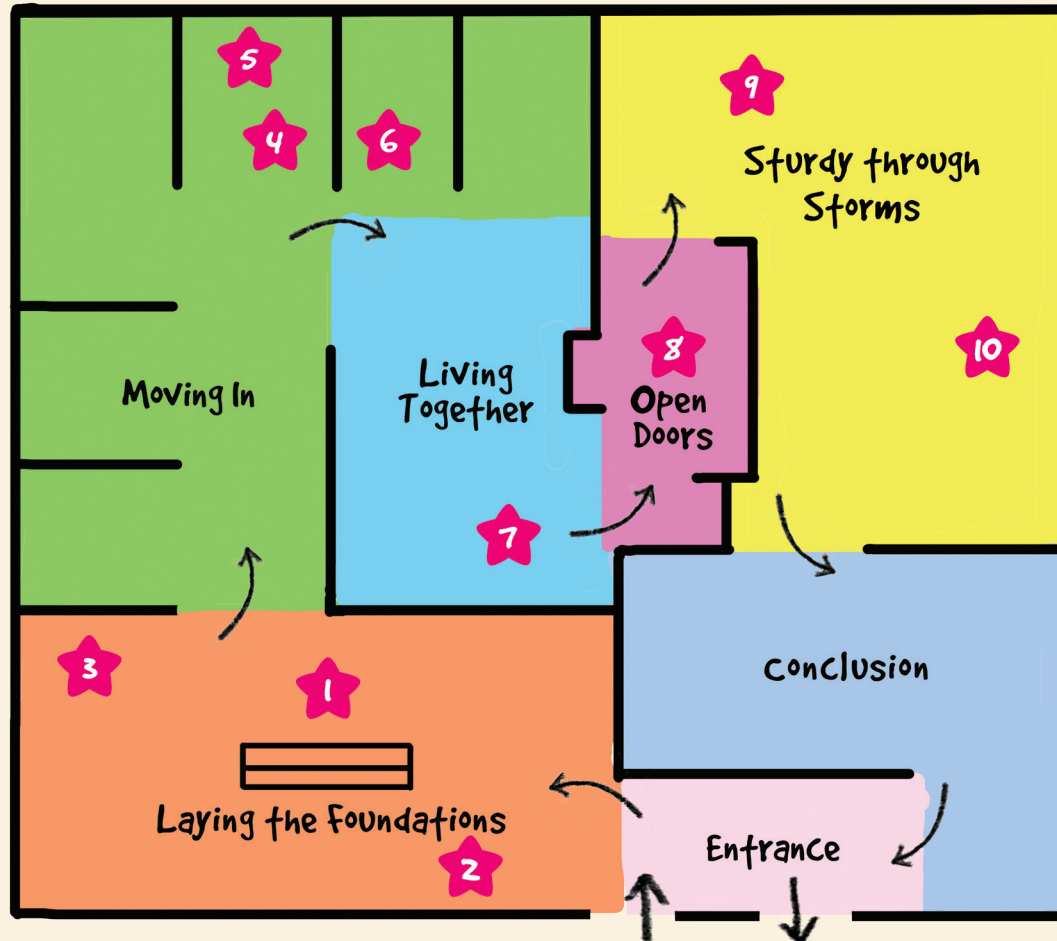
- 2 Encourage them to look closely at the artefact or image in the gallery, and ask their own questions about it! This will help them make meaning from the objects they may encounter on museum visits



- 4 If their question is not answered by the information provided, you can scan this QR code to submit your questions to our curators. Keep a lookout on our webpage (<https://www.nhb.gov.sg/nationalmuseum/hometrulygetcurious>) to see if your questions are answered every month!



Use this gallery map to find your way to the 10 exhibition highlights.



Show the images on the next few pages of this scrapbook to your child/students, and see who can spot the actual highlight in the gallery first!



**I wonder:**

- Where is this place?
- What do you see in this photo?

Encourage your child to look closely at the photograph and ask their own questions!

*Relocation*, 1970, Loke Hong Seng,  
Edition No.: 2/15, 2016-00735

Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

This photograph was taken in 1970, at Jalan Eunus in Singapore. We can see a family who lives in an attap house, and their clothes hanging on the laundry line outside their house.

Attap houses usually had sloping roofs made of attap palm and walls made of timber. The floor might be raised above ground level, to keep out wandering animals and floodwaters. The bathroom and toilet were usually located outdoors. Many families would get their water from wells. They could also plant fruit trees and vegetables outside their house.

In the background, we can see a different type of housing — new flats built by the Housing and Development Board (HDB). From the 1960s to 1980s, many people moved out of attap houses into HDB flats. This was because land was needed for redevelopment and defence projects. Most importantly, attap houses were not safe as they could catch fire very easily.



### Let's also watch

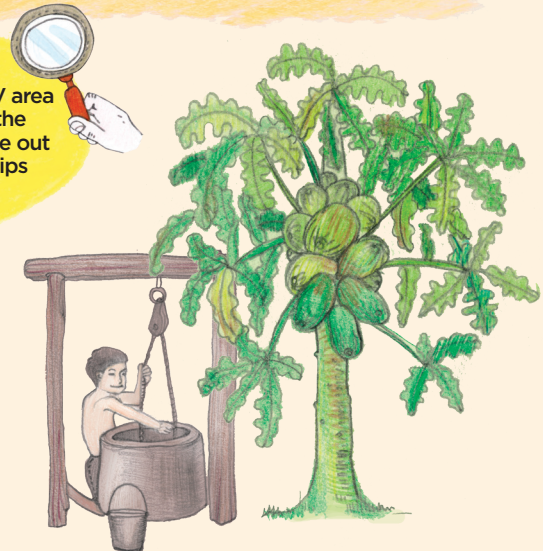
***Berita Singapura: Housing Week, 1963***  
Ministry of Culture Fonds, courtesy of  
the National Archives of Singapore

Find me at the AV area  
at Section 1! Use the  
stylus to select me out  
of the three AV clips  
available.



### Let's discuss!

1. What kind of house would you like to live in?
2. Would you like to live in an attap house? Why?
3. Ask your grandparents if they have lived in an attap house before, and what it was like!





Telecommunications Authority of  
Singapore pager, 1970-1984, 2010-04931  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore,  
National Heritage Board

**I wonder:**

- What do you think this is?
- What is this object used for?



This is a pager, and the metal clip is for you to clip the pager to your belt!

In the 1980s, before handphones became popular, nearly 40% of Singaporeans used a pager, including national servicemen who carried pagers like this into army camps for their loved ones to contact them easily.

Some models of pagers would show you the telephone number of the person who had tried to contact you, while other pagers could also display short messages. At night after their training, soldiers would join the long queues at their camp's public payphones to return the calls.



**Let's also look at some other things that are no longer used in Singapore today!**

Can you find a Singapore Bus Services (SBS) bus ticket and a bus conductor's ticket-puncher?



Ask your parents or grandparents how they used to pay their bus fare! Today, most of us tap our EZlink cards instead, and bus inspectors conduct checks using a hand-held device to scan your EZlink card.

**Hint: It's at the Infrastructure display, behind the National Service display!**





Photograph of students receiving their free cup of skimmed milk during recess, 1950s  
Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of the National Archives of Singapore



**I wonder:**

- Where is this place?
- What are the children queueing for?

This photo shows young pupils receiving their free cup of skimmed milk during recess, under the School Milk Scheme. Do you know the difference between skimmed milk and regular milk? Skimmed milk contains more nutrients and vitamins as compared to regular milk! That was why many primary schools provided free milk for their pupils from the 1950s to the 1980s — to improve the nutritional intake of young children and to help them develop the habit of healthy eating.

Let's read about  
someone's memory of the  
School Milk Scheme!

In my primary  
school days in  
the 1960s, school  
attendants would  
carry metal pails  
of piping hot milk  
to the school  
field ...



Many Singaporean adults remember receiving milk when they were in primary school.  
Let's look around this section for some events YOU can look forward to when you are older!

#### Childhood: Immunisations



*A girl covering her eyes in fear of pain as she was inoculated against smallpox, 16 April 1959*

*Chew Boon Chin, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH*

#### 15 years old: Getting your Identification Card (IC)



*Photograph of students queuing to register for their identity card at Raffles Institution, 9 May 1966*

*Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of the National Archives of Singapore*

#### Primary 5: Watching the National Day Parade Preview



*The 22,000 Primary 5 students at the National Day Parade preview did not let the sudden downpour dampen their mood as they sang "Stand Up for Singapore", 11 July 2009*

*Caroline Chia, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH*

#### 18 years old: National Service (for boys)



*New recruits Matthew Tan and Chan Kai Cheh getting a shave on their first day at the Basic Military Training Camp at Pulau Tekong, 14 June 2007*

*Lim Wui Liang, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH*



I wonder:

- What are these people holding?
- Why are they wearing red and white?

What other questions does your child have about this image?

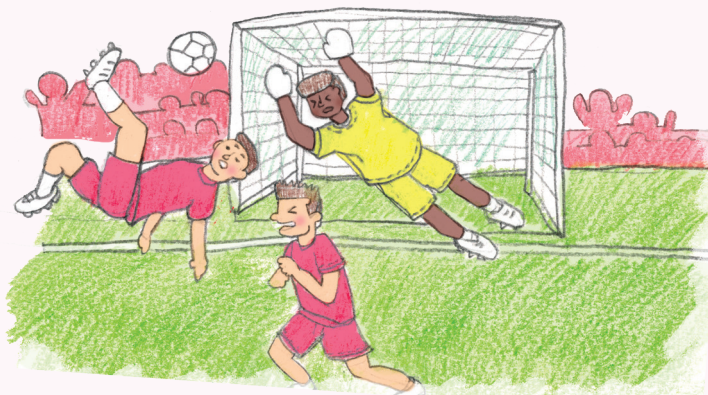
Singapore fans in the tens of thousands supporting the Singapore Lions at the Malaysia Cup in 1994, 18 December 1994  
Jerry Seh, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH

Playing and watching sports can help us bond with our family members, friends or even strangers! This photo shows fans supporting Singapore's national football team, the Singapore Lions, at the Malaysia Cup in 1994.

Many of them are wearing red and white, the colours of Singapore's flag. They are waving banners and their mouths are open — maybe they were cheering because Singapore had just scored a goal? There were tens of thousands of spectators at the Shah Alam stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia — the noise must have been deafening!

### Let's read about someone's memory of watching a Malaysia cup football match!

"... the atmosphere was fantastic..."



### Let's discuss!

1. How are the people in the photograph feeling, and how can you tell? How does this photograph make you feel?
2. Has anyone in your family/class watched a sporting competition at a stadium before? What was it like?
3. Have you seen a Kallang Wave before? What does it look like? What does it represent?





# 全民做体操



文：蔡文君

今天来健康活动日，也是全民健身与大众体操活动日。为全民健身与大众体操活动日。

全民健身活动，经过多年来的推广，已成为新加坡全民健身的重要组成部分。我们很高兴能在这个特别的日子里，与大家分享一些健身活动。

全民健身活动，是指通过一系列健身活动，来提高全民的体质和健康水平。这些活动包括有氧运动、力量训练、柔韧性训练等。

全民健身活动的好处有很多。首先，它可以提高我们的体质，增强我们的免疫力。其次，它可以减轻我们的压力，改善我们的情绪。最后，它可以延长我们的寿命，提高我们的生活质量。

全民健身活动的方法也有很多。我们可以参加各种健身课程，如瑜伽、普拉提、有氧运动等。我们也可以自己在家做一些简单的健身动作。

全民健身活动的关键是坚持。只有坚持锻炼，才能达到健身的目的。所以，我们要养成每天锻炼的习惯，让健身成为我们生活的一部分。

全民健身活动的目标是让每个人都能够健康快乐地生活。所以，我们要鼓励身边的人一起参加健身活动，让健身成为一种时尚。

全民健身活动的意义是深远的。它不仅关系到个人的健康，也关系到整个社会的健康。所以，我们要重视全民健身活动，让它成为我们生活的一部分。

全民健身活动的口号是：全民健身，健康第一。让我们行动起来，为全民健身事业贡献自己的一份力量。

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I wonder:

- What does this newspaper article show?
- Who do you think is supposed to do this exercise?

Lianhe Zaobao article on The Great Singapore Workout, 3 October 1993, 1997-00760  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

This newspaper clipping shows the different exercise moves that made up the Great Singapore Workout. The workout, launched by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on 3 October 1993, was part of the National Healthy Lifestyle Programme, which aimed to promote a healthy lifestyle among Singaporeans. Singaporeans all over the country, from office workers to students, were encouraged to do the workout by following a video.

All primary school children would do the workout together on All Children Exercising Simultaneously (ACES) Day. There were 15 exercises in the workout, from warm up, to upper body movement, lower body movement, total body exercises, and finally, cool down. Some of the moves included marching on the spot, sidestep with scissor and arm bends, and toe tap and stretch.



### Parents and educators:

Do you remember any moves from the Great Singapore Workout? Share your stories with your child/students!



Scan this QR code to watch the Great Singapore Workout on the @ Home, Truly digital experience!

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**I wonder:**

- What is everyone looking at?
- What time do you think this photograph was taken?

Residents, both young and old, attentively watching a television programme at Kim Seng Community Centre, 26 April 1974  
Sulaiman Ismail, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH

This photograph shows adults and young children attentively watching a television programme at Kim Seng Community Centre in 1974! Television (TV) was first introduced to Singapore in 1963.

Everybody was very excited about this new technology, but not many people could afford to buy one. So if one family owned a TV, their neighbours might peep through the window or through the grilles of the main door to try to watch TV as well, or everyone would gather at the community centre to watch one TV together!

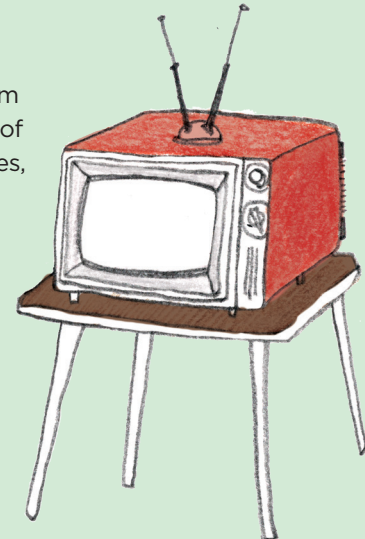


**Let's also watch some clips from well-loved Singapore TV shows!**

*Growing Up, Phua Chu Kang, The Noose* — have you watched any of them before? Do you know what they are about?



Visit the Voices of Singapore gallery on Level 2 of the museum to find more posters of television programmes, which parents or grandparents may recognise!



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**I wonder:**

- What do you think these people are going to do?
- What are some of them holding in their hands

“Operation Broomstick” launched by the Housing and Development Board in 1968,  
5 October 1968  
Low Yew Kong, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH

This photograph shows people taking part in “Operation Broomstick” and going around their neighbourhood to clean up the public spaces. Operation Broomstick was launched in 1968 as part of the government’s “Keep Singapore Clean & Pollution-Free” campaign.

Today, the Clean & Green Singapore movement continues to encourage Singaporeans to care for their public spaces. Many students in school also learn to keep their classrooms clean and tidy by following a class duty roster for sweeping the floor, wiping the whiteboard, and other duties.



Let's also look at other photos of clean-up projects, including the clean-up of the Singapore River!



Let's discuss!

1. Have you taken part in any clean-up activities or campaigns before?  
Can you think of some places in Singapore that need cleaning?
2. Does anyone in your family know what the Singapore River looked and smelled like before the Singapore River clean-up in 1977?
3. Why is it important to keep our environment clean?  
How do you feel when your environment is not clean?



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Watch these videos, which show the many different groups of people that make up Singapore's diverse society.



### Let's discuss!

1. Are the people in these videos similar to you or different? How are they similar? How are they different?
2. How many races or nationalities can you find in Singapore? Can you name some of them?
3. Do you know someone of a different race or nationality, in your class or family? What do you like about them?
4. Why do some people go to a different country to study or work?
5. Imagine that you are going to a different country to study. It is your first time in this new place and you need to make new friends. How would you feel?

Selamat pagi 你好  
नमस्ते HELLO வணக்கம்  
Kumusta  
안녕 こんにちは ৱাৱা  
xin chào Բարև

### Let's have some fun!

1. Look at the word cloud on the left. Can you identify the language each greeting is in?
2. Home activity: Choose two cultures which are different from your own culture. Do a family project on the traditional food items, toys, or music from these cultures!



A pair rescuing livestock and poultry from a flood,  
3 December 1978  
Christopher Loh, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH



**I wonder:**

- Why is there so much water?
- Why is the man holding a pig?

This photo shows a flood in 1978. The rescued animals were about to be moved somewhere drier and safer. In the 1970s, many Singaporeans made a living by rearing poultry, pigs, and other types of animals for food, as well as growing fruit trees and other valuable plants. In times of floods, it was important to save their animals because they were worth quite a lot of money!

Singapore has a tropical climate and experiences huge amounts of rainfall. In the 1960s and 1970s, floods were common due to a combination of heavy rainfall, high tides and drainage problems. During the worst floods, trees fell, houses were damaged, people were trapped on the roofs of their homes, and telephone and electricity networks were disrupted. Today, we may still experience flash floods sometimes — these are floods that happen in one area and subside very quickly.



### Let's discuss!

1. If Singapore was hit by a flood, what problems would you face?
2. How can you work together with your friends or neighbours to solve these problems?
3. What important items will you save if your school or home is flooded?





**I wonder:**

- Where was this photograph taken?
- What are the children doing?

Gan Eng Seng Primary School students undergoing a temperature-taking exercise a few months after the SARS crisis, to remind them of the need to stay vigilant, 3 September 2003  
Steven Lee, courtesy of The Straits Times/SPH

This photo shows students taking their temperature in September 2003. In 2003, Singapore was hit by an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), a very contagious disease that also affected other countries in the world. Employees and students had to take and record their temperatures daily, but despite precautionary measures, 238 people were infected in Singapore, and 33 people died.

Did you know that the Infrared Fever Screening System was developed in Singapore, during the SARS period? You may have seen such screening systems around in public places recently, due to COVID-19. Instead of measuring people's temperatures one at a time, this system lets us quickly screen many people for fever at the same time.

Over the years, Singapore has faced some big challenges such as floods, fires and other crises which affected people all over the country. It is important to work together and learn from these challenges, so that we can be more prepared for future challenges.



### Let's discuss!

1. What are some lessons you have learnt about personal hygiene and public safety during SARS and COVID-19?
2. Who do you think have been the "heroes" during the SARS and COVID-19 periods? What makes their actions heroic?
3. How did the COVID-19 period affect you and your family?



### Free & Easy!

Give your child/students some time to explore the exhibition on their own and discover something they are drawn to. If they need a little guidance, you can ask them to “**Find an object that makes you feel happy**” or “**Find an object that makes you feel proud of Singapore**”. This will help young children learn to name their feelings too!

Which is your favourite object in this exhibition, and why? What does it tell us about Singapore?  
Draw it out in the box on the left, and write down your notes about it below!

This is a \_\_\_\_\_

It makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_

It tells me that Singapore \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

More notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Home Activity

Personalise this scrapbook by drawing or pasting in your own family photos! What are some of your family's special stories or things you do together, that make you feel most like it is home, truly?

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Yummy Cooking  
Sunny Love Neighbours Siblings  
Birthday party Papa Bed Spring cleaning sleep Toys  
Plushies photographs Home, Notes on the fridge TV  
Chores Mama pets Truly Comfort Cosy Food  
Festivities Friends Void deck Family playground Tall  
Nature Happy Pots of flowers Grandparents buildings  
parks Homework  
Corridor  
Garden Clean  
Green

You are now near the end of the exhibition!

*What do you like about Singapore now?*

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*How can Singapore be a better home?*

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Together, with everybody's ideas,  
we can make Singapore a better home for all of us.



Your *Home, Truly* experience doesn't end here!  
Continue the conversations back at home with our  
“My Family's Stories” Kit:



You can also check out *@ Home, Truly*, a digital companion to the exhibition that follows nine-year-old Nadine and her grandfather as they relive the highs, lows and moments in between of Singapore's journey from its beginnings as a nation to today:



Presented by



An institution of



Supported by



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