

NARRATIVE TEXTS

Vietnamese

After the fall of Saigon in 1975, several waves of Vietnamese refugees made their way to the United States. The first groups to resettle were largely educated professionals and government officials, followed by any and everyone who could escape by boat. Many of them spent time in relocation camps before settling in cities across the United States. Those who settled along the Texas Gulf Coast gravitated toward the fishing industries and blue-collar labor, although they encountered language difficulties, prejudice, and, at times, violence.

Although many of the Vietnamese did not receive citizenship until the 1980s, they worked hard to succeed, to preserve their culture, and to secure an education and future for their children. As a result of those early Vietnamese refugees in Texas, thousands more have moved here from cities all around the country, and Texas enjoys an incredibly vibrant Vietnamese cultural presence.



Dat Nguyen, Texas A&M and Dallas Cowboy football star; first Vietnamese American to play in the NFL, 1999-2005