

WHERE WILDFLOWERS GROW



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE FOR GRADES K-3

written by
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illustrated by
BAO LUU

About the Book

Author and elementary school teacher, Hà Dinh, offers insight into the refugee experience based on her immigration story from Việt Nam to America, and honors the questions and fears we experience during times of change, encouraging children to keep learning, growing, and dreaming even when we have to say goodbye to what is familiar to us.

Getting Started and Pre-Reading

- 1 Before reading the book, present the cover, read the title as well as the author's and illustrator's names. Invite students to say the names aloud and tell students that they are Vietnamese American: Hà Dinh (*pronounced "H-uh Deen"*) and Bao Luu (*pronounced "B-aw Ly-ew"*).
- 2 Ask students to share their ideas on what the story may be about. (Remind students that there are no right or wrong predictions.)
- 3 Invite students to name a few wildflowers and where they see wildflowers grow. Some common examples include: poppy, aster, bluebonnet, sunflower, bluebell, coneflower, daisy, and more.
- 4 The United States is filled with people who are immigrants and descendants of immigrants. Present a world map to the students and point out various populations of people who have immigrated to the United States (e.g., countries like Việt Nam, Philippines, Mexico, China, India, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, Syria, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ukraine, and more).



Discussion Questions and Activities

Make a world map of your class or school community

Our communities are often made of people from many places. Invite students to make a list of the nations represented by each member of the class. Then, create a world map marking the countries that represent each student's and teacher's nationality/ethnicity and pin it on your class board.

Refugee suitcase

Invite students to imagine they are forced to leave their homes and flee to another country. Ask them to think about what they would pack and bring along with them on their journey. The printable worksheet on page 3 can be used to accompany the activity.

Make your own pressed flower card

Invite students to create their own pressed flower card for a friend just like Châu did for Hà in the book. Instructions are listed in pages 4 and 5.

Displaced persons summary chart

Help students understand important concepts relating to refugees, asylum, and migration. Refer to the handy guide in pages 6 to 12 and use the worksheet in page 13 to summarize learnings.

Play the Vietnamese mancala game, Ô Ăn Quan (pronounced "Oh Ah-ng Kwan")

This traditional Vietnamese two-player game can be a simple and fun class activity. Look in the back of the book for detailed game rules and illustrations.

Coloring page

See page 15 for a coloring page inspired by the illustrations in the picture book.



Refugee Suitcase

Imagine you are forced to leave your home.
Draw and describe the items you would take on your journey with you.



DIY Pressed Flower Card

Create your own pressed flower card just like Châu did for Hà in the book. Begin by taking a walk in your neighborhood or garden and collect your favorite flowers and leaves!



HOW TO DRY AND PRESS FLOWERS

What you'll need:

- A thick, sturdy book (e.g., phone book or encyclopedia)
- Paper to absorb moisture (e.g., parchment paper, thin cardboard, newspaper, or coffee filters; avoid paper towels as petals can stick)
- Heavy weight
- Small flowers and leaves

Directions:

Prepare flowers: Before you begin, separate any petals if needed. Arrange your flowers on one sheet of paper with at least an inch of space in between. Set another sheet of paper over it.

Press the flowers: Place the paper and flowers in the book and gently close it shut. Flip the book upside down and add more weight on it.

Wait for flowers to dry: Let the flowers set for a couple days or at least until the flowers are dried out. The drying time will depend on the thickness of the flower petals. Gently use tweezers to handle your dried flowers as book-pressed flowers can have very delicate structures.



DIY Pressed Flower Card



ASSEMBLING YOUR CARD

What you'll need:

- Dry pressed flowers and leaves
- Liquid craft glue and paintbrush/glue stick
- White cardstock paper
- Crayons/color pencils

Directions:

1. Fold the cardstock paper into half.
2. Take your pressed flowers and arrange each piece to match the layout of your card. Experiment with different designs and be as creative as you want! You can choose to glue the flowers onto the cover and/or the inside of the card.
3. Then, gently apply glue to the back of each pressed flower piece thoroughly and set it to your card. Repeat with each flower and leave the card to dry.
4. Decorate your card and write your message inside it.

Terminology and Definitions

This section (pages 6-15) is adapted from *The UN Refugee Agency's Teaching About Refugees Guidebook for Teachers*.

Refugees, asylum, and migration are complex topics.

To begin, we will explore the most common terminology used to designate displaced people in countries all over the world. This resource will look at four categories of displaced persons.



(Kindergarten students may study simpler ideas about refugees and migrants only.)

A simple way to differentiate these groups of displaced persons is to consider three central questions:

1. Where have people moved?

Are they in their own country or are they in another country?

2. Why have people moved?

Were they in danger and had no choice but to move?

3. What are the rights of the people who have moved?

What do local and international laws and regulations say? Can they be sent back to their own country? Do they have the right to live and work or get an education in the host country?



WHERE?

A refugee is a person who sought protection **outside of their own country** and was given refugee status. They have crossed at least one international border.

WHY?

Refugees move because they are **in danger as a result of war, violence or persecution**. Refugees are forcibly displaced. This means they had no choice but to leave, otherwise they would continue to be exposed to danger.

RIGHTS?

International law says that refugees **cannot be sent back** to their own country if this puts them at risk of war, violence, or persecution. They have a right to remain in the host country. They also have a right to work in the host country and access healthcare and education. They have the right to rent or acquire a place to live, and they have other fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and religion.

BOOK CONTEXT?

In the picture book *Where Wildflowers Grow*, author, Hà Dinh, and her family were refugees. Her family lived in a refugee camp in Bataan at the Philippine Refuge Processing Center (PRPC) in the fall of 1988. They came from Việtnám, a nation whose population faced numerous difficulties following the fall of Sài Gòn that marked the end of the Việtnám War. You can read the author's note in the back of the book to learn more about her refugee journey.



WHERE?

Migrants are per definition **outside of their own country**. They have crossed at least one international border. Migrants can only be found outside their own country, like refugees.

WHY?

Migrants move because of **reasons apart from war, violence, or persecution** (e.g., for work or education, to reunite with family members, or to seek new opportunities). This is where they differ fundamentally from refugees.

Migrants, could in principle return to their own countries without being in immediate danger. However, they may have very good reasons to leave. Some migrants may move to work legally in another country, because they want to join family or get an education. More compelling and precarious reasons like poverty, natural disasters, food shortages or other reasons may drive many to leave as well.

RIGHTS?

Most countries regulate movements of migrants under their own **migration laws**. Some countries, for example, offer opportunities for people to migrate legally to work, study, or for family members or spouses to join one another in another country. These arrangements differ from the international laws protecting refugees.





WHERE?

Asylum seekers are per definition **outside of their own country**. They have crossed at least one international border. Asylum seekers can therefore only be found outside their own country, like refugees and migrants.

WHY?

Asylum seekers are claiming asylum in another country. This means that **we do not know yet whether they are refugees or whether they fall in other categories of displaced people**. Claiming asylum in another country means that you are asking another country for ‘international protection’ from dangers such as war, violence, and persecution.

Typically this means that asylum seekers are seeking to be recognized as refugees because they are:

- outside of their country,
- they fled because of danger (e.g., war, violence, persecution), and
- they would be in danger if they are sent back to their country (see page 7 for the definition of refugees).

A NOTE ON THE TERM ‘INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION’

When you start searching for documentation about refugees and asylum, you will often come across the legal term ‘international protection’. This term is derived from the international laws on refugees. Protection in this case simply means that people fleeing danger in their own country can stay in safety and enjoy fundamental rights in another country, and that they cannot be sent back if this puts them at risk.





RIGHTS?

Claiming asylum in another country is a human right. Most countries in the world have asylum procedures in place to determine if persons arriving from other countries who are seeking asylum can be recognized as refugees.

These procedures usually involve examining documents and other information provided by the asylum seeker to determine if their claim is credible. In many cases, asylum seekers are also interviewed extensively to determine if they have a ‘well-founded fear of being persecuted’ and whether they would be in danger if they returned to their country.

A NOTE ON THE WORD ‘PERSECUTION’

Persecution can take many forms and can force people of all walks of life to flee.

The 1951 Refugee Convention says that someone is a refugee if he or she has a ‘well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country’.

To name a few examples of what persecution means in this context: people may be jailed, mistreated, hurt, or worse just because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinions, or belonging to a certain group of people. When this is the case, and the person has crossed at least one border, this person is a refugee according to the criteria in international law.





WHERE?

Internally displaced people (also called ‘IDPs’) are per definition **still inside their own country**. They may have moved from one location to another inside their country, but they have not crossed an international border.

WHY?

Internally displaced people move from their homes because they were **in danger as a result of war, violence, or persecution**. Like refugees, this means they had no choice but to leave, or they will continue to be exposed to danger. In contrast to refugees, however, internally displaced people move to other parts of their own country in search of safety.

RIGHTS?

Internally displaced people stay within their country and **remain under the protection and laws of their country’s government** even if that government is the reason for their displacement (e.g., the government is persecuting certain groups of people in the country).

Internally displaced people often move to areas where it is difficult for agencies like *The UN Refugee Agency* to deliver aid and humanitarian assistance. As a result, these people are among the most vulnerable in the world.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN TEACHING ABOUT REFUGEES

WHERE REFUGEES COME FROM

When teaching facts and figures about forced displacement of people, it is important for students to understand the **global scale** of the challenge of forced displacement, how it has evolved to the current peak (the number of forcibly displaced people stands at historically high levels), and **the relatively small group of top countries of origin of refugees** according to the most recent data available in 2021.

WHERE REFUGEES GO

The majority of people who were forced to flee from danger are still living inside their own country. They are internally displaced and are not being hosted outside of their own country. In recent years, there were consistently around twice as much internally displaced people than refugees in the world.

The vast majority of the world's refugees are hosted in developing countries, not in industrialized countries. The percentage of refugees hosted in developing countries has been close to 90% in recent years. That means that only around one in ten refugees are in industrialized (or developed) host countries and regions.

Neighboring countries host the most refugees. Most refugees can be found in countries neighboring their own country. Many do not want to travel far in the hope to return soon when the situation in their country becomes safe again. Many also lack the resources or physical ability to undertake perilous journeys to countries further away.

Asylum seekers make up a small portion of the world's forcibly displaced people. The number of people who apply for asylum in another country is small compared to the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people.

You can read more facts about refugees and displaced people on [UNHCR's Teaching About Refugees page](#).



DISPLACED PERSONS SUMMARY CHART



	REFUGEES	MIGRANTS	ASYLUM SEEKERS	INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE
WHERE ARE THEY?				
WHY ARE THEY DISPLACED?				
WHAT ARE THEIR RIGHTS?				

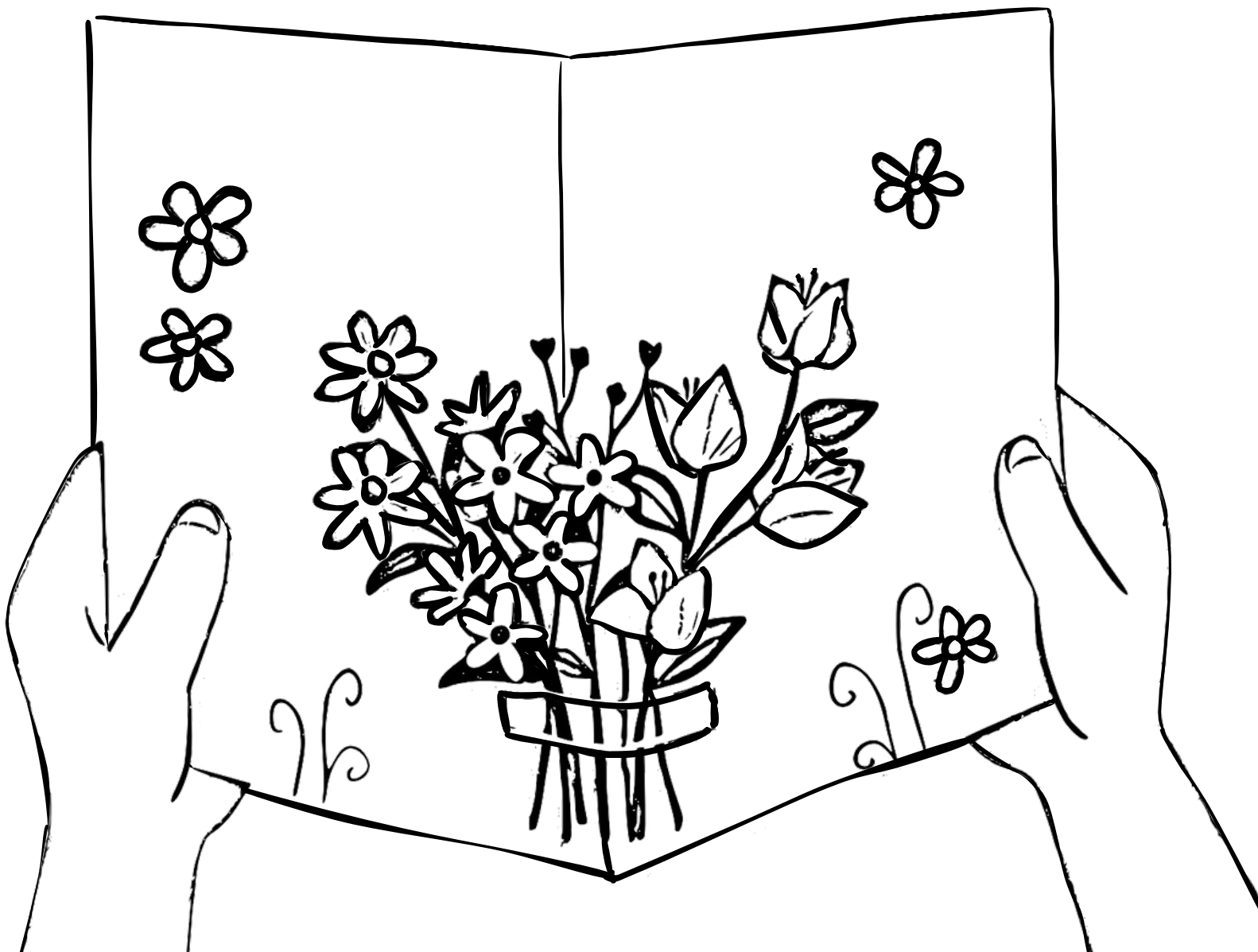


DISPLACED PERSONS SUMMARY CHART (ANSWER KEY)

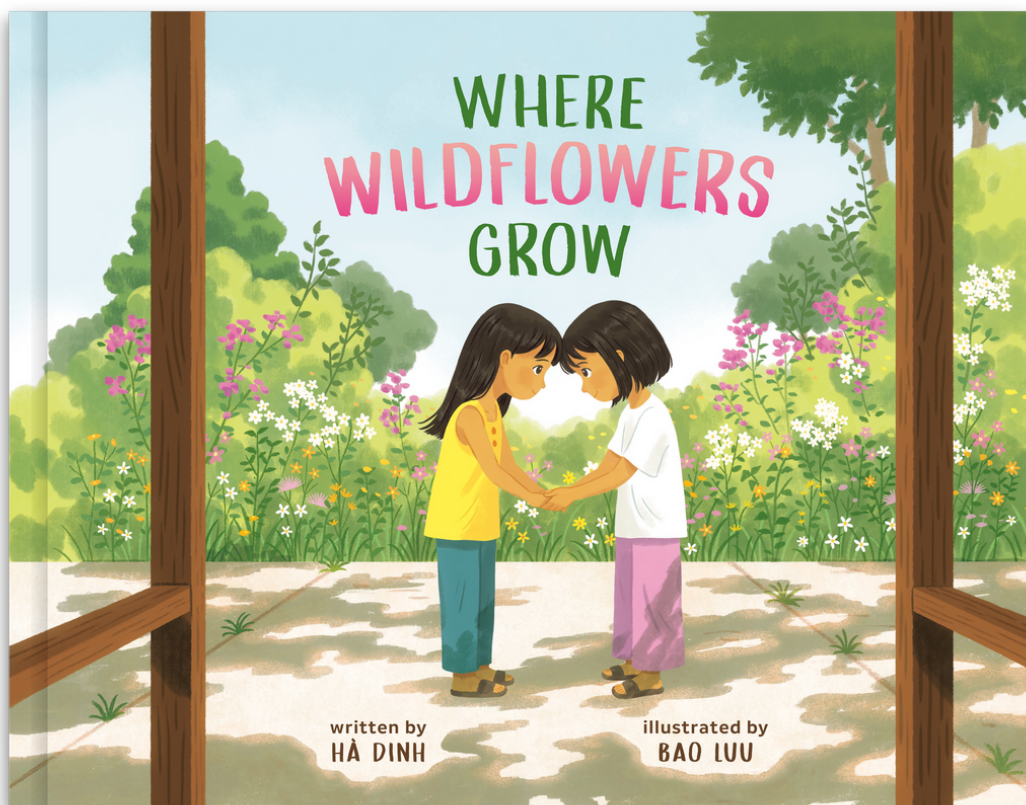


	REFUGEES	MIGRANTS	ASYLUM SEEKERS	INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE
WHERE ARE THEY?	Refugees are outside of their own country . They have crossed at least one international border.	Migrants are outside of their own country . They have crossed at least one international border.	Asylum seekers are outside of their own country . They have crossed at least one international border.	Internally displaced people live inside their own country . They may have moved within the country, but they have not crossed an international border.
WHY ARE THEY DISPLACED?	Refugees are forcibly displaced . They moved outside of the country because they were in danger as a result of war, violence, or persecution.	Migrants move because of other reasons such as work or education, to reunite with family members, or to seek new opportunities.	Like refugees, asylum seekers are seeking 'international protection' from dangers such as war, violence, and persecution in their home country .	Internally displaced people are forcibly displaced. They moved within the country because they were in danger as a result of war, violence, or persecution .
WHAT ARE THEIR RIGHTS?	Refugees cannot be sent back to their own country if they are at risk of war, violence, or persecution. They have a right to live and work in their host country, with access to healthcare, education, and other fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and religion.	Migrants abide by the migration laws of their host country. Depending on a country's laws, migrants may be able to work legally or invite family members to join them. The rights that apply to migrants differ from the international laws protecting refugees.	Claiming asylum in another country is a human right. Most asylum seekers are waiting to be legally recognized as a refugee. Many countries in the world have procedures in place to determine if asylum seekers arriving from other countries can be recognized as refugees.	Internally displaced people stay in their own country and remain under the protection and laws of their country's government. They are among the most vulnerable groups of people in the world, as they often move to areas where it can be difficult to deliver aid.

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