



NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD



MEMORY GAME CARDS



What are the NLB Memory Game Cards?

Developed in 2012, the NLB Memory Game Cards allow members of the public to reminisce about their life in Singapore and share their stories through archival images from the National Archives of Singapore.

This game is an intergenerational activity that allows people, young and old, to interact by creating an opportunity to spend quality time with each other and strengthen familial bonds.

Contents

Click on the buttons below to navigate this resource and get started on your reminiscence journey!

[Need guidance
with your
journey?](#)

[Click here!](#)

[See the full set
of cards?](#)

[Click here!](#)

How do you use the NLB Memory Game Cards?

- 1 Go to the map on page 5 or click [here!](#)
- 2 Take turns to click on any of the location pins that seem familiar or evoke any fond memories.
- 3 Look at the photograph and read the information provided.
- 4 Take turns to ask the questions provided and share your personal memories and stories. Deepen your discussion by coming up with your own questions!
- 5 Once you are done, click on the "Take me back to the Map!" button at the top left-hand corner to go back to the map on page 5.
- 6 Repeat steps 2-5 till you have completed all the cards.



**The pictures on the cards
are taken from locations
you may remember.
Click on a pin to take a trip
down memory lane!**

**Take me back
to the Map!**

NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING AT VICTORIA STREET, SINCE 2005

About the Picture

Designed by architect Ken Yeang, the National Library Board (NLB) is headquartered at the National Library Building located at 100 Victoria Street. This building was opened in 2005, replacing the previous National Library Building on Stamford Road. The 16-storey building primarily houses the collections of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, while the Central Public Library is situated on the first basement floor.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Do you have a favourite library that you often visit? Any memorable experiences at this library?

Have you visited the National Library Building at Victoria Street?



© 2007

National Library Building
at Victoria Street,
since 2005

**Take me back
to the Map!**

BALLOTING OF HDB FLATS, 1965

About the Picture

Formed in February 1960, following Singapore attaining self-governance, the Housing and Development Board (HDB) is the country's national public housing authority. It was established to address the nation's acute housing shortage. Over time, the focus of HDB's housing initiatives has shifted from quantity of housing to quality of life. HDB flats are home to more than 80 percent of Singapore's resident population since 1985.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Have you balloted for a HDB flat? What was the experience like?

Has the layout, design, and structure of HDB flats changed over the years? How have they changed?

Void decks are an important part of HDB flats as it gives residents a place to play, socialise, and build a community. Do you have any memorable experiences?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**Balloting of HDB
flats, 1965**

**Take me back
to the Map!**

SINGAPORE BOTANIC GARDENS, 1908

About the Picture

The Singapore Botanic Gardens was established in 1859 and is the oldest garden in Singapore. Serving as a scientific garden in its early years, it's mission has evolved to support Singapore's greening plans by providing horticultural and botanical support, serving as a hub for plant taxonomic and biodiversity research in the region, and a popular educational and recreational destination. The Gardens, spanning 74 hectares (183 acres), was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 4 July 2015.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

The Singapore Botanic Gardens has been established for over 160 years. How has it changed over the years?

Apart from the Botanic Gardens, what is your favourite place to go to see the lush flora and fauna Singapore has to offer?



Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore Botanic
Gardens, 1908

Take me back
to the Map!

SINGAPORE'S FIRST COMMERCIAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - KALLANG AIRPORT, 1953

About the Picture

Opened on 12 June 1937, the Kallang Airport Building is a significant architectural landmark. Located at 9 Stadium Link along Nicoll Highway, the airport was Singapore's first purpose-built civil airport. Although the airport ceased operations in 1955, the building continued to be used by various organisations, including the Singapore Youth Sports Council and People's Association. In 2008, the Urban Redevelopment Authority designated the former airport building for conservation.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Where do you like to go for holiday?

What are your first memories of the Kallang Airport and how did you feel seeing an aeroplane for the first time?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore's first
commercial
international airport -
Kallang Airport, 1953

Take me back
to the Map!

FINGER PUPPET PERFORMANCE AT THE SINGAPORE RIVER HONGBAO, 1992

About the Picture

Since 1987, the vibrant River Hong Bao has been a staple event in Singapore's festive calendar. It has become an important part of the Lunar New Year celebrations for both locals and visitors as the festival offers a unique Chinese cultural experience with large lanterns and mouthwatering food, as well as additional activities such as street performances and amusement rides.

[**Click here to learn more!**](#)

Share your Stories!

What is your favourite part of the River Hong Bao?

What is the best way to enjoy the River Hong Bao festival?

If you celebrate the Lunar New Year, what is one event you always look forward to?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Finger puppet
performance at the
Singapore River
Hongbao, 1992

**Take me back
to the Map!**

SINGAPORE'S FIRST CABINET AT THE 1ST NATIONAL DAY PARADE, 1966

About the Picture

Singapore's National Day was first celebrated on 9 August 1966, with a week-long series of events that consisted of a grand parade, cultural performances, fireworks, and dinner parties. But did you know that this was actually the second National Day? The first was on 9 August 1965, when Singapore became a sovereign and independent nation after separating from the Federation of Malaysia.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

There have been over 55 National Day Parades. What are some your favourite moments from the NDP Parades?

How have National Day celebrations changed over the years?

How do you like to spend your National Day every year?



Yusof Ishak Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore's First Cabinet
at the 1st National Day
Parade, 1966

Take me back
to the Map!

NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING AT STAMFORD ROAD, 1967

About the Picture

Located at 91 Stamford Road, the National Library Building was officially opened on 12 November 1960. The library was appreciated for its increased space which was four times larger than its previous locations. It was officially opened by then-President Yusof bin Ishak, and its opening heralded a week of festivities called the National Library Week. The National Library on Stamford Road was closed in 2004 and demolished to make way for the Singapore Management University and Fort Canning tunnel.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Have you been to the National Library Building at Stamford Road? What memories do you have of the place?

How have the libraries changed over the years?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

National Library
Building at Stamford
Road, 1967

Take me back
to the Map!

CIRCUS CHARITY GALA AT SINGAPORE INDOOR STADIUM, 1999

About the Picture

The Singapore Indoor Stadium is located along the scenic Kallang River. Officially opened in 31 December 1989, the indoor stadium was built to provide a world-class venue to meet leisure and sporting needs.

Did you know that in 1999, the Flying Fruit Fly Children's Circus was invited to perform at the Singapore Indoor Stadium for a charity gala? The event was organised by electronics retail chain Best Denki, in aid of Children's Charities Association.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Have you been to the Singapore Indoor Stadium to watch a sporting or entertainment event?

Have you been to the circus? Can you name some common acts you can see in a circus performance?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Circus Charity Gala at
the Singapore Indoor
Stadium, 1999

**Take me back
to the Map!**

FRUIT STALL IN THE MARKET, 1964

About the Picture

Wet markets are traditional markets that sell fresh meat, fish, vegetables, fruits, and other goods including eggs, spices, dried items, as well as coffee beans. Wet markets are commonly found in various areas in Asia, including Singapore, and serve as an important part of the local culture. Often bustling with activity, the vibrant atmosphere is also filled with a sense of familiarity between stall holders and their regular customers.

[**Click here to learn more!**](#)

Share your Stories!

What are some of your favourite memories of going to the wet market?

Can you describe the sights, sounds, and smells of the wet market you frequently visit?

Did you have a favourite stall or vendor at the wet market? What did they sell?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Fruit stall in the
market, 1964

Take me back
to the Map!

PLAYGROUND AT BEDOK RESERVOIR ROAD, 1984

About the Picture

The old mosaic playgrounds in Singapore were unique features of the country's urban landscape. Mainly built in the 1970s and 1980s, these mosaic playgrounds, and also comprising of sandpits, swings, see-saws, and merry-go-rounds, were designed to convey a sense of Singapore's identity through adding in local cultural and architectural heritage elements. These included bumboats (perahu), the pelican, as well as the iconic dragon playground.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

What are some of your earliest memories of playing or accompanying someone to the playground?

Have you seen any mosaic playgrounds in your neighbourhood or around the island? Which was your favourite?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Playground at Bedok
Reservoir Road, 1984

Take me back
to the Map!

CROWDS IN THE RAIN DURING A CONSTITUENCY WALK IN PAYA LEBAR, 1963

About the Location

Located in the eastern part of Singapore, Paya Lebar, whose name originated from the Malay words 'paya' and 'lebar', which mean "swamp" and "wide" respectively. Due to the presence of this swamp, the area saw plenty of farming and fishing activities.

In 1950s and 1960s, the area underwent rapid development and in 1955, Singapore's first international airport opened at Paya Lebar, which became the area's major landmark.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Do you have any memories of the old Paya Lebar? What was the sight like?

Have you previously visited the former Paya Lebar Airport? Who did you go with?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Crowds in the rain
during a constituency
walk in Paya Lebar, 1963

**Take me back
to the Map!**

GIANT CAKE FLOAT AT THE FIRST NIGHT-TIME CHINGAY PARADE AT ORCHARD ROAD, 1990

About the Picture

Chingay is an annual street parade and carnival that takes place in Singapore as part of the Lunar New Year celebrations. The parade features magnificent floats designed by local community groups, schools and businesses, colourful costumes, and performances by various acts and communities.

The parade was held at Orchard Road for the first time in 1985 and continued to be held there for 15 years. It was in 1990 when the first night Chingay was held.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Have you and your family watched any of the Chingay street parade in person?

What were some of your favourite performances or floats at Chingay?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Giant cake float at the first night-time Chingay Parade at Orchard Road, 1990

**Take me back
to the Map!**

SHOP SELLING TRADITIONAL MALAY GAMES AT GEYLANG SERAI, 1991

About the Picture

What you see in the picture here is a woman teaching a young student how a game of congkak is played. Behind her are rows of Malay traditional kites known as 'Wau'. Traditional Malay games have been played by Malays in Southeast Asia for generations, and are an important part of the culture and heritage. Some of the popular ones include congkak, five stones, gasing (spinning top), as well as wau. These games are often played in groups and as a way for people to socialise and bond with one another.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Did you have a favourite toy or game growing up? What were they?

Have you tried playing any of the traditional Malay games before? Do you remember how the game was played and what the rules are?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Shop selling traditional
Malay games at Geylang
Serai, 1991

Take me back
to the Map!

SINGAPORE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, 1985

About the Picture

The Singapore Zoo (formerly known as the Singapore Zoological Gardens) is widely regarded as one of the world's best zoos and has garnered numerous awards and accolades over the years. Although the Singapore Zoo was established in 1973, it is lesser-known that smaller animal enclosures have existed on the island since the colonial era.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

How has the Singapore Zoological Gardens changed over the years since you first visited it?

Do you have any photos or souvenirs from your visits to the zoo? What are they and what memories do they bring back?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore Zoological
Gardens, 1985

**Take me back
to the Map!**

NATIONAL DAY PARADE AT THE PADANG, 1993

About the Picture

The Padang, a Malay term for an open field or ground, was a place where people engaged in sports, social gatherings, and significant celebrations. Since 1966, the Padang has been the location for National Day Parades, including Singapore's Golden Jubilee National Day celebrations in 2015. It remains a popular venue for sports such as cricket and tennis, as well as Formula 1 Grand Prix events.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Have you attended the National Day Parade at the Padang? What was it like?

How are the National Day celebrations at The Padang different from the celebrations we see today?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**National Day Parade at
the Padang, 1993**

**Take me back
to the Map!**

CHILDREN PLAYING INSTRUMENTS AT THE SINGAPORE YOUTH SCIENCE FESTIVAL, 1999

About the Picture

At Peixin Primary School situated at 500 Yishun Ring Road, the 22nd Singapore Youth Science Festival commenced with a performance by children playing percussion instruments.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

How do you think playing instruments can inspire interest in both music and science?

Do you play any musical instruments, and have you performed before?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Children playing
instruments at the
Singapore Youth Science
Festival, 1999

Take me back
to the Map!

CLOWN STILT WALKER AT THE CHINGAY PARADE AT ANG MO KIO, 1984

About the Picture

Chingay, which originates from the Chinese term "zhuangyi," meaning "the art of costume and masquerade," features stilt walkers as one of its main highlights. These performers, dressed in traditional Chinese costumes, showcase their acrobatic skills on long, peppermint-striped stilts. During the early years, the parade was held in residential areas. As the parade grew, it became more diverse, with participants from various ethnic communities making up the strong pool of performers.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Do you prefer watching the parade in your neighbourhood or on TV?

Did you catch the Chingay floats when they came to your neighbourhood?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**Clown stilt walker at the
Chingay Parade at
Ang Mo Kio, 1984**

**Take me back
to the Map!**

POULTRY FARM, 1950

About the Picture

After the war, Singapore made significant efforts to boost its food production and in particular on vegetables and livestock, including pigs, poultry, cattle, sheep, and goats. The poultry industry grew at a rapid pace, enabling Singapore to achieve self-sufficiency and even export surplus produce to neighbouring countries within a few years after the war. Despite the scarcity of land, Singapore has always aimed to be self-reliant in terms of food.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Did you ever live near a poultry farm? What was it like?

Do you have any stories about the chickens or other animals on the farm?



Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Poultry farm, 1950

**Take me back
to the Map!**

NEWLY-COMMISSIONED OFFICER WITH PARENTS AT THE SAFTI MILITARY INSTITUTE, 2000

About the Picture

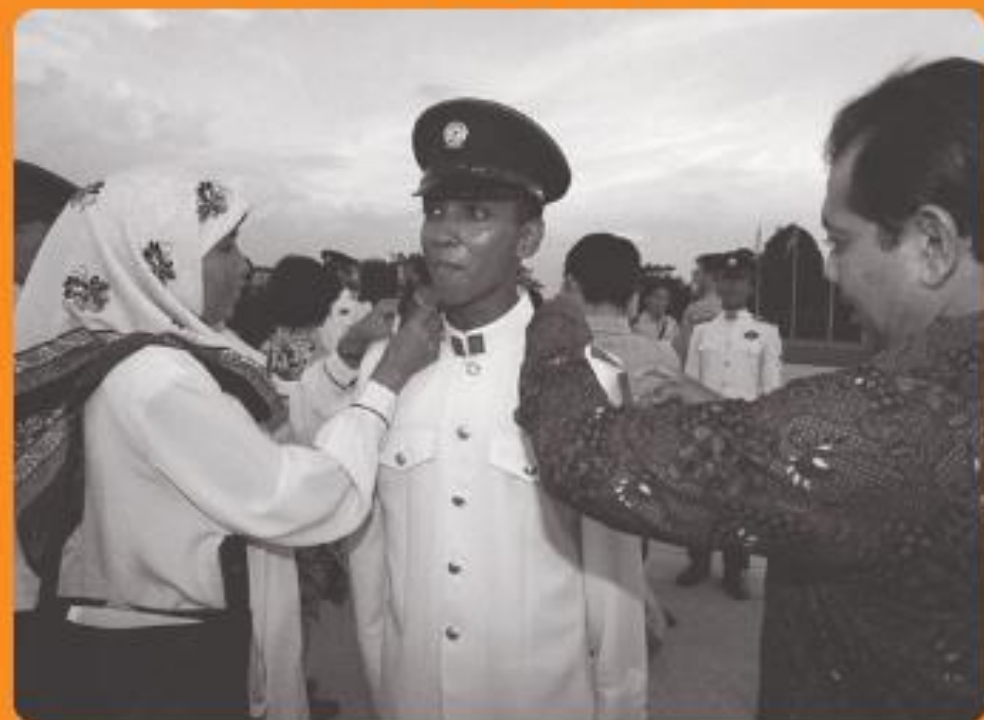
At the Officer Cadets Tri-Service Commissioning cum Dinner held at SAFTI Military Institute located at 500 Upper Jurong Road, the parents of a newly-commissioned officer had the honor of attaching epaulettes to their son's uniform.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Share your Stories!

Do you have any stories or photos from your time or family members at SAFTI?

What are the memories that you would like to share?



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**Newly-commissioned
officer with parents at
the SAFTI Military
Institute, 2000**

HOW TO PLAY

- a. Shuffle the cards and spread them out, face down, in a random fashion.
- b. Take turns to flip any two cards. If the images on the cards are identical, keep them.
If not, put them face down again in the exact position.
- c. Any player who manages to obtain a pair keeps the cards and gets another turn.
- d. The player with the most cards at the end wins!
- e. Photos on the cards can also be used as conversation starters to share personal memories of Singapore.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES
www.nlb.gov.sg

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD
100 Victoria Street,
#14-01
National Library Building,
Singapore 188064

OBJECTIVE
To get as many matching pairs as possible and talk about Singapore in the past and present.

BUILDING BRIDGES
Strong family relationships are the building blocks of society and the strength of these family ties are usually linked to the amount of quality time a family spends together. Intergenerational (IG) activities such as a memory game provide opportunities for interaction between young and old. This is a fun and easy game that a whole family can play.

INSTRUCTION CARD 01
FRONT

INSTRUCTION CARD 01
BACK

INSTRUCTION CARD 02
FRONT

INSTRUCTION CARD 02
BACK

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National Library Building
at Victoria Street,
since 2005



Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore Botanic
Gardens, 1908



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Balloting of HDB
flats, 1965



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore's first
commercial
international airport -
Kallang Airport, 1953

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MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Finger puppet
performance at the
Singapore River
Hongbao, 1992



Yusof Ishak Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore's First Cabinet
at the 1st National Day
Parade, 1966



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

National Library
Building at Stamford
Road, 1967



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Circus Charity Gala at
the Singapore Indoor
Stadium, 1999

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MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**Fruit stall in the
market, 1964**



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**Playground at Bedok
Reservoir Road, 1984**



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**Crowds in the rain
during a constituency
walk in Paya Lebar, 1963**



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

**Giant cake float at the
first night-time Chingay
Parade at Orchard
Road, 1990**

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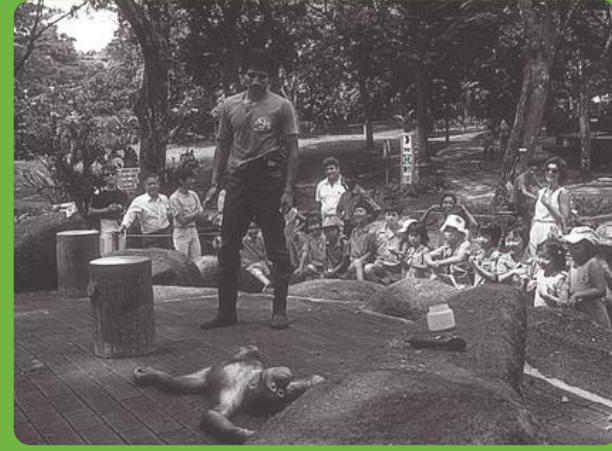


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MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Shop selling traditional
Malay games at Geylang
Serai, 1991



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Singapore Zoological
Gardens, 1985



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

National Day Parade at
the Padang, 1993



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Children playing
instruments at the
Singapore Youth Science
Festival, 1999

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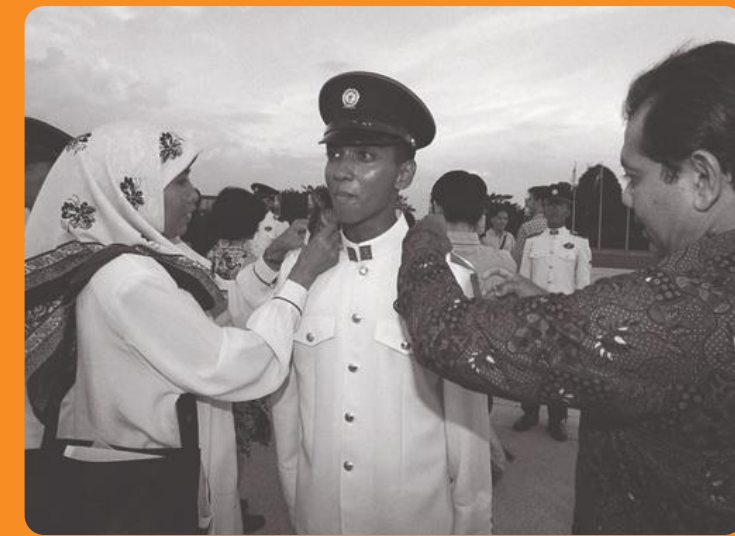
MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Clown stilt walker at the
Chingay Parade at
Ang Mo Kio, 1984



Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Poultry farm, 1950



MCI Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Newly-commissioned
officer with parents at
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