

Worksheets

Ethnic Professions: Research Project

Name: _____

1. Choose to conduct research on one of these topics:

- South Asian American Motel Operators
- Cambodian American Donut Shops
- Vietnamese American Nail Salons
- Filipino American Nurses
- Korean American Corner Groceries

2. As you complete your research, try to answer these questions:

- *What is the history of the ethnic group's participation in this profession or type of business?*
- *What are the pros and cons of working in this profession/business?*
- *Find the stories of at least two people from the ethnic group who have participated in this line of work. What are their views of the profession?*

3. Consider these resources as you get started:

- **South Asian American Motel Operators:**

(1) Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, "How Indian Americans Came to Run Half of All U.S. Motels":

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/south-asia-america-motels-immigration>

(2) Seema Mody, "Travel Industry's Struggle amid Coronavirus Pandemic is a Blow for South Asian Families with Hotel Roots":

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/17/coronavirus-deals-a-blow-to-south-asian-families-with-hotel-roots.html>

(3) Asian American Hotel Owners Association: <https://www.aahoa.com/>

(4) Southern Oral History Program Collection, "Interview with Chandrika Dalal, July 22, 1999": https://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/html_use/K-0814.html

(5) National Public Radio, "'Life Behind The Lobby' Of Indian-American Motels":

<https://www.npr.org/2012/06/02/153988290/life-behind-the-lobby-indian-american-motel-owners>

• **Cambodian American Donut Shops:**

- (1) AJ+, "Why So Many Cambodians Own Donut Shops":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQLtRRe5EBc>
- (2) Vibeke Venema, "The Donut King Who Went Full Circle - From Rags to Riches, Twice":
<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-54546427>
- (3) Mahita Gajanan and Thomas Stoomer, "See Southern California's Shifting Doughnut Culture—From Its Cambodian Immigrant Roots to Its Instagram-Friendly Future":
<https://time.com/longform/national-doughnut-day-photos/>
- (4) Anthony Veasna So, "Three Women of Chuck's Donuts":
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/02/10/three-women-of-chucks-donuts>; also see interview with Anthony Veasna So: <https://www.newyorker.com/books/this-week-in-fiction/anthony-veasna-so-02-10-20>
- (5) Pink Box Stories: <https://medium.com/pinkboxstories>

• **Vietnamese American Nail Salons:**

- (1) Lulu Garcia-Navarro: "How Vietnamese Americans Took Over the Nails Business: A Documentary": <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/19/724452398/how-vietnamese-americans-took-over-the-nails-business-a-documentary>
- (2) California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (<https://www.cahealthynailsalons.org/>)
- (3) Ogden Museum of Southern Art, "Nail Salon, Featuring Porcelain Works by Christian Dinh": <https://ogdenmuseum.org/exhibition/focus-spotlight-nail-salon/>
- (4) University of California, Irvine Vietnamese American Oral History Project (Link to interviews that include discussions of nail salons:
http://ucispace.lib.uci.edu/handle/10575/1614/discover?field=subject&fq=subject_filter%3ANail%5C+salons%5C%7C%5C%7C%5C%7CNail%5C+salons
- (5) UCLA Labor Center, "A Survey of Nail Salon Workers and Owners in California During COVID-19": <https://www.labor.ucla.edu/publication/a-survey-of-nail-salon-workers-and-owners-in-california-during-covid-19/>

• **Filipino American Nurses:**

- (1) Berkeley Voices, "Why are There So Many Filipino Nurses in the U.S.?"
<https://play.acast.com/s/fiat-vox/filipino-nurses-in-the-us>
- (2) Carlos Oronce, Alexander Adia and Ninez Ponce, "US Health Care Relies on Filipinx While Ignoring Their Health Needs": <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/fullarticle/2782408>
- (3) Philippine Nurses Association of America: <https://www.mypnaa.org/>
- (4) Rice University's Houston Asian American Archives Oral Histories (Link to interviews with Filipino American nurses:
<https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/79695/browse?type=subject&value=Filipino+nurs+immigration>
- (5) KulArts, "Nursing These Wounds" project:
<https://www.kularts-sf.org/nursing-these-wounds>

- **Korean American Corner Groceries:**

(1) Molly Ivans, "Korean Emigrés Find Success Amid the Stress of New York":

<https://www.nytimes.com/1981/12/08/nyregion/korean-emigres-find-success-amid-the-stress-of-new-york.html>

(2) Pyong Gap Min, "The Korean Community in the New York-New Jersey Area in the 1980s" Focus on section 3, pp. 597-613:

<http://koreanamericandatabank.org/images/History%20Article%20by%20Min.pdf>

(3) Sam Dolnick, "A New York Staple, Korean Grocers Are Dwindling":

<https://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/02/nyregion/korean-grocers-a-new-york-fixture-are-on-the-decline.html>

(4) Victoria Kim and Angel Jennings, "Korean Liquor Store. Black Neighborhood. A Quarter-century after the Riots, Misgivings Still Run Deep":

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-02-11/south-los-angeles-korean-liquor-protest-leimert-park-riots>

(5) KoreanAmericanStory.org, "Legacy Project: Baik Kyu Kim":

<https://koreanamericanstory.org/video/legacy-project-video-baik-kyu-kim/> ; also check out other videos on this site

4. Choose an option to present your research:

- **Option 1: Research Presentation:**

- Give a 5-7 minute research presentation to your class.
- Provide some background information about the ethnic group you researched.
- Discuss how they became so involved in this line of work.
- Your presentation should include pictures and, if possible, one or two excerpts from relevant oral histories.

- **Option 2: Short Play:**

- Write and perform a 7-10 minute play for your class.
- The play must be based on one of the oral histories you watched/listened in during your research.
- The play should express this person's actual ideas and feelings about this line of work.
- Fictional characters can be created to give the audience background information, or express opposing points of view.