

# I am Hmong

Valerie Xiong



# About Me

- The oldest of 5.
- I am from Minnesota, USA.
- I am Hmong.
- A university student majoring in health science.
- My favorite thing to eat in Japan is kara age.



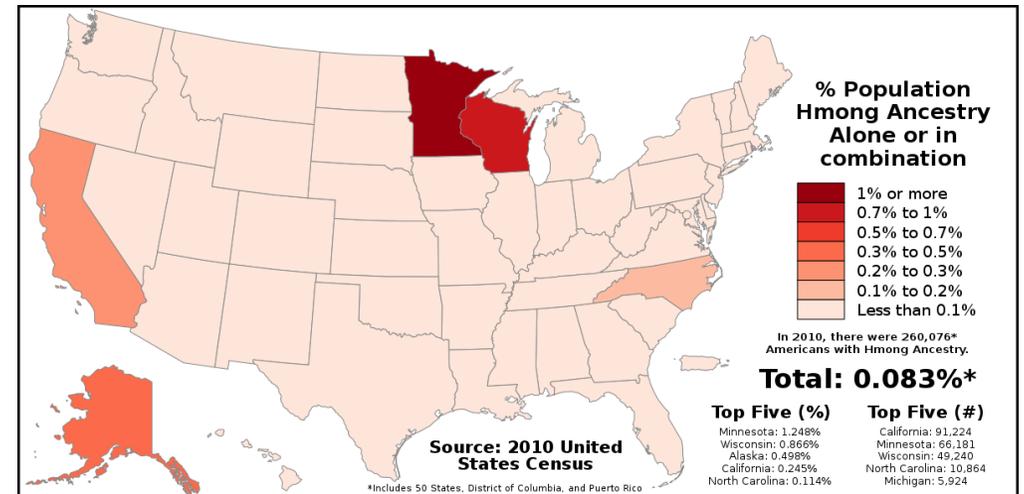
# Who are Hmong people?

- Ethnic mountain group from China.
- We do not consider ourselves Chinese.
- Hmong people fled from China due to problems with China.
- Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, and more.
- A people with no country.



# How Did We Come to the U.S?

- Hmong soldiers served as allies of the U.S. during the Vietnam War, and after facing persecution, many fled as refugees and resettled elsewhere around the world.
- America opened their doors to us because we had allied with them in the war.
- States with the most Hmong population:
  - California
  - Minnesota
  - Wisconsin



# Our Writing

- We use English letters, specifically the Romanized Popular Alphabet (RPA).
- In the 1950's, Western missionaries worked with the Hmong people to develop a written language.
- Spoken language, folk tales, and songs were how we used to communicate.
- **Nyob Zoo**

## Consonants

c	ch	d	dh	dl	dlh	f	g	h
[c]	[cʰ]	[d]	[dʰ]	[t]	[tʰ]	[f]	[ŋ]	[h]
hl	hm	hml	hn	hny	k	kh	l	m
[t]	[ɲ]	[ɲʰ]	[ŋ]	[ɲ]	[k]	[kʰ]	[l]	[m]
ml	nc	nch	ndl	ndlh	nk	nkh	np	nph
[mʰ]	[ɲ]	[ɲʰ]	[nʰ]	[nʰ]	[ŋ]	[ŋʰ]	[mʰ]	[mʰ]
nplh	npl	nq	nqh	nr	nrh	nt	nth	nts
[mʰɲ]	[mʰ]	[ŋ]	[ŋʰ]	[nʰ]	[nʰ]	[nʰ]	[nʰ]	[nʰ]
ntsh	ntx	ntxh	ny	p	ph	pl	plh	q
[nʰ]	[nʰ]	[nʰ]	[n]	[p]	[pʰ]	[pʰ]	[pʰ]	[q]
qh	r	rh	s	t	th	ts	tsh	tx
[qʰ]	[r]	[rʰ]	[s]	[t]	[tʰ]	[ts]	[tsʰ]	[ts]
txh	v	x	xy	y	z			
[tsʰ]	[v]	[s]	[ç]	[j]	[z]			

## Vowels

a	aa	ai	au	aw	e	ee	i	ia
[a]	[ã]	[ai]	[au]	[ai]	[e]	[ẽ/ɛŋ]	[i]	[iə]
o	oo	u	ua	w				
[ɔ]	[ɔ̃/ɔŋ]	[u]	[uə]	[i]				

## Tone letters

-b	-d	-g	-j	-m	-s
[ʔ]	[ʔ]	[ʔ]	[ʔ]	[ʔ]	[ʔ]



# Food

---



# Clothing

- Hmong embroidery includes bright colors: pinks, reds, greens, as well as blues
- Traditionally, at a young age Hmong girls learn how to sew and copy motifs from their mothers and grandmothers.
- Worn for our Hmong New Year.
- The "Xauv" - was a lock necklace made of silver that the Chinese used it to identify the Hmong slaves.
- Jackets - that are design to identify what type of Hmong and region you are from.
- The "paj ntaub" - They are a pattern cloth on the back of our jackets that we secretly use to practice our language from the Chinese.

# Designs and Patterns

*Hmong Motifs & Symbols*

Heart / Lub plawv



Ram's horn / Kub yaj



Elephant Foot Print  
*Ko Taw Nixhw*



Cucumber/  
Pumpkin Seeds  
*Noob Dib  
Noob Taub*



House  
*Luw Tsev*



Snail  
*Qab Qvej*



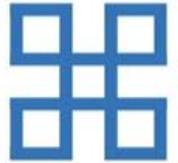
Mountains  
*Rooj*



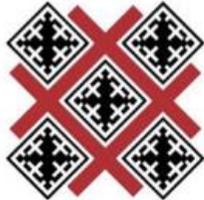
Rice Seeds  
*Noob Nplej*



Rickrack Steps  
*Tus Ntaiv*



Leaf Frond  
*Nplooj Kaus Suab*



Hook  
*Tus Khawb*



## Hmong Story Cloth

- Story cloths were a way to document the stories one wanted to remember and share.
- Hmong story cloths were only invented in the 1970s, when thousands of Hmong were interred in refugee camps.
- Hmong women developed story cloths. Handsewn.



# Activity with Story Cloth

- You will create your own story cloth.
- Materials: One sheet of paper and coloring utensils.
- Create a story you want to share.
- Use symbols and colors.
- 5 minutes to draw and 5 minutes to share.