

Amazin' Asian Worksheet

G. Colorful Hmong Groups

Multiple choice

From the 10th – 18th centuries, the Hmong lived in the Guizhou Province of China. They were forced to move south and west and dress in certain ways to divide and weaken them. They developed dialects to avoid recognition and persecution. Many members of various clans migrated to the borders of Laos, Burma, and Vietnam. Here they became distinctive in White, or Blue/Green/Black categories and rarely inter-married.

In the 1700's, a third group was created with a new dialect and costumes, again to avoid being recognized and suffering atrocities. They are referred to as Stripe Hmong. Their dialect is close to White Hmong, but their costumes are striped, which gives them their name.

Today, there remain 6-7 million Hmong living in China, approximately 100,000 in Laos and Thailand, and 2-3 million have resettled in the western world.

The following customs may be for Green (also called Blue or Black), White, and/or Stripe. Circle the group letter or letters you think follows each custom.

1. G W S In Hmong, the name of this group is *Mong Njua*.
2. G W S This group was the most recently formed in Southeast Asia
3. G W S In Hmong, the name of this group is *Hmong Deaw*.
4. G W S They tie strings around their wrists for good luck and good health.
5. G W S They play the *Qeej* for special events, such as a funeral.
6. G W S These women's costumes include white skirts.
7. G W S This group likes to play the ball toss and celebrate New Year.
8. G W S Men's pants are tailored with a very low crotch.
9. G W S They use a Shaman to help them understand the spirits when someone is sick or when something bad happens.
10. G W S A hand-sewn zig-zag stitch decorates the women's skirts.
11. G W S Yellow, black, red, and green lines are embroidered on the women's long-sleeved shirts.
12. G W S Members of this group now live all over the world.