

Welcome!



TRADITIONAL ARTS  
AND ETHNOLOGY CENTRE  
L U A N G P R A B A N G

**YOUR NAME:** .....

**YOUR AGE:** .....

## **Welcome to the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre!**

Today you are going to learn about some of the many different ethnic groups living here in Laos.

You may already know of the Lao Loum, Lao Soung and Lao Theung.

Actually, there are many more different kinds of people living in Laos – 49 different ethnic groups. Today, you are going to see 6 of the 49 different ethnic groups in Laos.

When we say ‘ethnic group’, we mean a group of people who have certain things in common: language, religion, ceremonies and clothing.

Not everybody in Laos is exactly the same!

**ANSWER:** Which ethnic group do you belong to?

.....

## AKHA

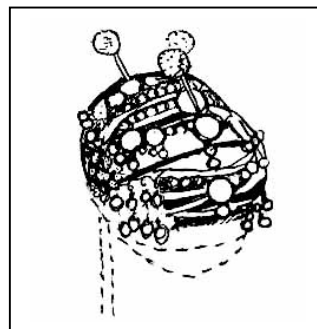
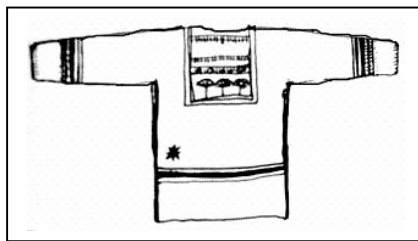
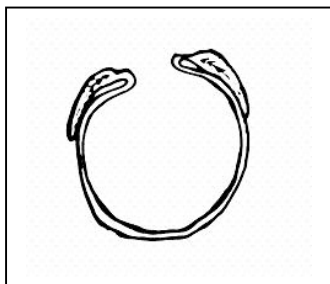
The Akha people live in Northern Laos, in Luang Namtha and Phongsali provinces.

This exhibit shows an Akha Pouly Nyai woman's headdress. It is made from 300 pieces of pure silver.

Actually, there are many different Akha subgroups. Different Akha groups have different names.

There are three Akha subgroups in our display.

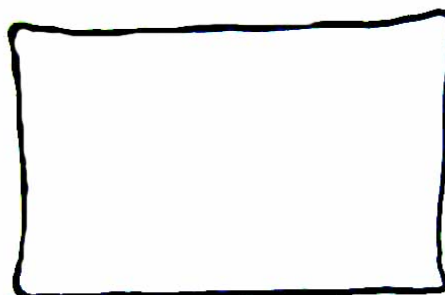
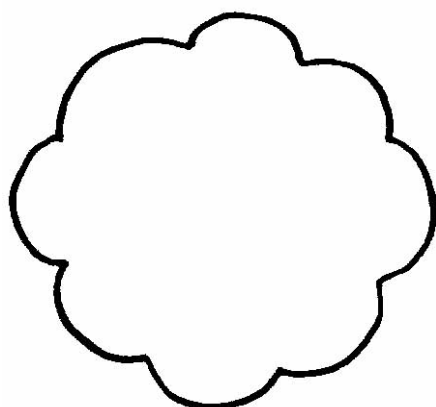
**TODAY:** Find these three objects in the exhibit and write down which Akha group they belong to



.....

.....

**AT HOME:** Decorate these Akha silver buttons with your own design.



## **HMONG**

This display is all about Hmong New Year.

Hmong New Year happens in December or January, but the date changes each year with the lunar calendar (based on the moon).

Hmong New Year is a big party! Everybody gets dressed up in this beautiful clothing and plays games.

One game is called '*pov pob*'. All the girls line up in one line, and the boys line up opposite them. They throw a ball or an orange to each other. If someone drops the ball, they have to sing a traditional song.

It is a way for young people to meet each other.

**TODAY:** How many days does a Hmong New Year celebration last?

..... (The answer is on the information panel!)

### **AT HOME:**

Ask family about your New Year celebration – what do you do?

1. When does your family celebrate New Year?

.....

2. What does your family do to celebrate?

.....

3. Do you wear special clothes like Hmong people?

.....

4. Do you have any family traditions for New Year?

.....

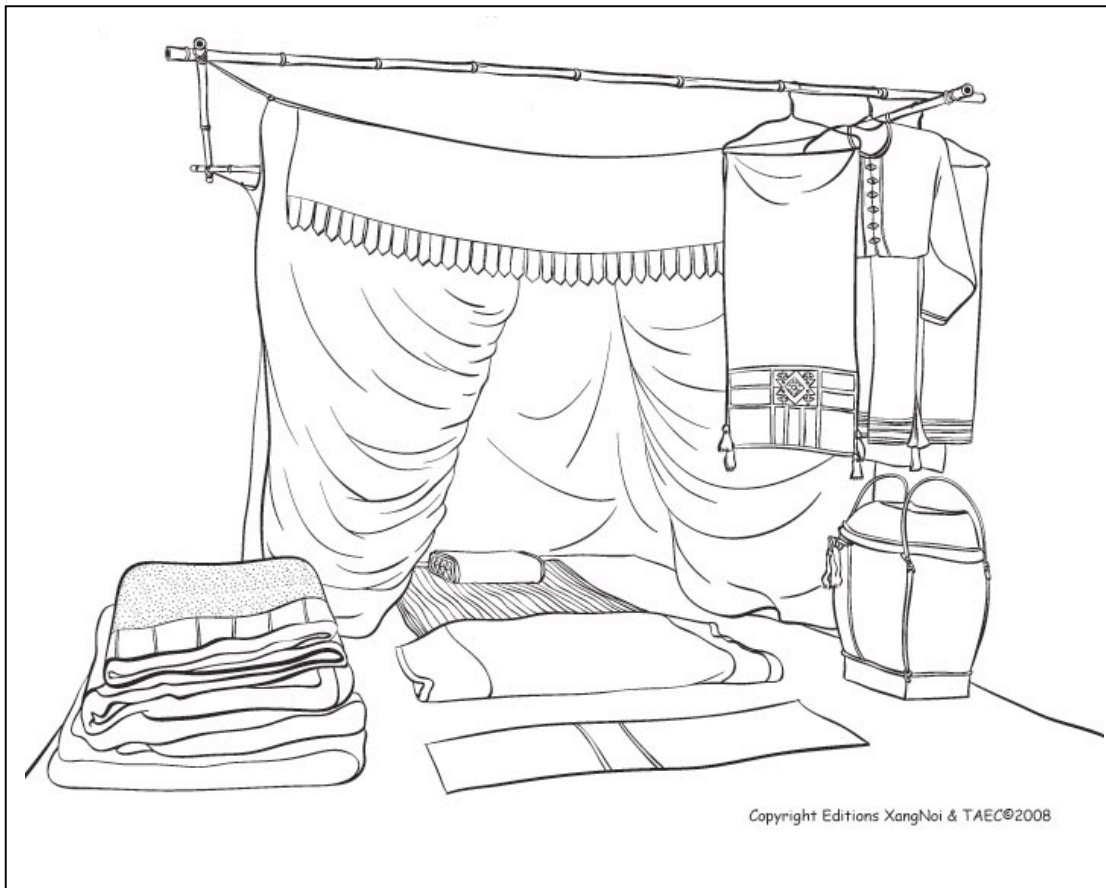
## TAI DAM

Tai Dam people make these beautiful mosquito nets for sleeping inside.

Girls make these mosquito nets when they are preparing to get married.

Have you ever seen a mosquito net like this before? Look at the decoration around the top.

**TODAY:** What is the missing object in this drawing? .....



### **AT HOME:**

Colour in the picture of the Tai Dam bedroom. You can make it very colourful!

## **KHMU**

Khmu men do bamboo weaving. They are expert bamboo weavers.

Look carefully at this Khmu kitchen.

**TODAY:** Write a list of everything in the display made with bamboo.

.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

Many Khmu people live here in Luang Prabang. Maybe you have a friend who is Khmu, maybe you are Khmu!

Two words in Khmu language are:

**Samailer** (means “hello!”)

**Mah** (means “eat!”)

### **AT HOME:**

Teach your family these Khmu words!

## WEDDINGS

All the different ethnic groups in Laos have different wedding traditions. Weddings are an important way to see beliefs.

Before, young people would get married very young – as early as 13 years old! Now, education and jobs are more important, so people are getting married later. How old do you want to be when you get married?

### TODAY:

These two brides are from different ethnic groups. You can tell by their interesting hairstyles! Can you identify them? (Look at the exhibition!)



This bride is: .....

This bride is: .....

### AT HOME:

Ask your parents or your grandparents about their courtship and wedding.

1. How old were they when they got married?

.....

2. Did your father have to pay a bridewealth payment? What was it?

.....

3. What kind of ceremony did they have? What did they have to do?

.....

## **THANK YOU!**

We hope you enjoyed your visit to TAEC.

Do you know it is FREE for all Lao people to visit TAEC anytime?

You do not have to wait to be invited, you can come anytime you like.

You can tell your family and friends!

All Lao people are invited to come and look at ethnic clothing and traditional handicrafts.

We hope to see you again.



Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre  
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FREE for Lao people.  
20,000 KIP for foreigner visitors.