



**Social Studies  
School Service**

[www.socialstudies.com](http://www.socialstudies.com)

## Downloadable Reproducible eBooks

Thank you for purchasing this eBook from  
[www.socialstudies.com](http://www.socialstudies.com) or [www.writingco.com](http://www.writingco.com).

---

To browse more eBook titles, visit  
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebooks.html>

To learn more about eBooks, visit our help page at  
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebookshelp.html>

For questions, please e-mail [eBooks@socialstudies.com](mailto:eBooks@socialstudies.com)

---

## Free E-mail Newsletter—Sign up Today!

To learn about new eBook and print titles, professional development resources, and catalogs in the mail, sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter at  
<http://socialstudies.com/newsletter/>

---

# Southeast Asia



Stevens & Shea Publishers

---

**SS 408****Introduction**

This unit is designed to acquaint students with the history and culture of Southeast Asia. It emphasizes vocabulary as well as historical content.

The unit is made up of 15 pages of text, each with vocabulary words and/or comprehension questions.

Puzzles and other activities reinforce concepts and vocabulary.

**Contents****Cambodia**

Pages 4-8

**Laos**

Pages 9-12

**Vietnam**

Pages 13-16

**Hmong**

Pages 17-19

**Crosswords**

Pages 20-23

**Angkor Wat Drawing**

Page 24

**Angkor Wat Inquiry**

Pages 25-27

**Folktales**

Pages 28-32

**Crossword Puzzle Answers****Cambodia****ACROSS**

4 NorodomSihanouk  
7 Khmer  
9 Jayavarman  
12 Shiva  
13 Funan  
15 durian  
17 PolPot  
19 LonNol  
20 sanctify  
21 coconut

**DOWN**

1 incense  
2 cremate  
3 Cham  
5 Suryavarman  
6 Champa  
7 KhmerRouge  
8 rice  
10 AngkorWat  
11 chenla  
14 AngkorThom  
16 stilts  
17 pali  
18 lotus

**Vietnam****ACROSS**

1 Tet  
2 buffalo  
3 NgoDinhDiem  
7 Confucian  
9 canh  
11 altar  
13 Moi  
14 duck  
15 sauce  
17 VietMinh  
18 pho  
19 betel  
20 chao  
21 Hanoi

**DOWN**

1 Trung  
3 nuocmam  
4 dinh  
5 HoChiMinh  
6 Tao  
8 CaoDai  
10 Catholic  
12 ancestor  
16 China  
17 Vietcong  
18 privacy

**Hmong****ACROSS**

1 self-sufficient  
5 ingot  
6 midwife  
8 price  
11 clan  
12 dialect  
13 mountains  
17 China  
18 new years  
19 placenta  
21 conflict

**DOWN**

1 Siberia  
2 funeral  
3 independent  
4 white  
6 meo  
7 eldest  
9 blue  
10 outside  
14 opium  
15 Animists  
16 silver  
20 corn

**Laos****ACROSS**

6 SouvannaPhouma  
9 veranda  
10 Kha  
14 Vientiane  
15 Fa  
17 vigil  
18 bride  
19 BounOum  
20 Hmong

**DOWN**

1 Borom  
2 LangChang  
3 Yao  
4 phi  
5 Pathet  
7 Thai  
8 padek  
11 Prabang  
12 SisavangVong  
13 Mekong  
16 feast  
18 bamboo

These activities may be reproduced in the school which purchased the manual. All other forms of reproduction are strictly prohibited without the written permission of the publisher.

ISBN: 0-89550-146-5

**Stevens & Shea Publishers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 794, Stockton, CA 95201

Phone: (209) 465-1880

# Introduction

---

The Indochinese peninsula is divided by mountains. On the western side of the mountains is Vietnam. On the eastern side are Cambodia and Laos. The Vietnamese people have been strongly influenced by China. The people in Laos and Cambodia have been influenced mainly by India.

In the mountains there are many different groups of people. These groups value

their independence from the people who live in the low lands and control the governments. These groups include the Hmong (also called Meo) and Yao (also called Mien).

Southeast Asia became important to the United States because of the Vietnamese War. Many refugees from Southeast Asia came to the U.S. after the war because of the harsh communist rule.



## The Cambodian People

Most people from Cambodia are Khmers. The Khmers moved into Cambodia from Laos during the 6th to 8th centuries A.D. Already living in Cambodia were the Cham people. The Cham people came from southern India. They brought with them the Pali script in which the Cambodian language is written, and the Hindu religion.

The Khmers replaced the Cham as the dominant people in the area, building a large empire and a very advanced civilization. With the Mongol invasions, the Thai people were driven from their home in China into present day Thailand. The great Khmer civilization was destroyed by attacks from the Thais on one side and the Annamese from present day Vietnam on the other side.

Most Cambodians (about 70%) are Khmer. There are some Cham left. Others are mountain people related to the Kha, Moi and Negritos who live in the mountains of Laos and Vietnam. There are also a large number of Vietnamese and Chinese. Many are a mixture of the various groups.

## Cambodian Customs and Beliefs

### Religion

Khmers are Buddhists.

### Traditional Beliefs

- Strangers must not enter the house.
- The meal is sacred and nothing must interrupt it.
- When sleeping, the head must point toward the south.
- Touching the head is a sign of disrespect.
- Houses must be built on stilts to keep out evil spirits which are found in the ground.
- Trees should not be allowed to touch or overgrow houses because they may allow in evil spirits.

### Terms

Pali script  
Khmer  
Cham

## Comprehension Questions

1. What people make up the Cambodian population?
2. How did India influence Cambodia?
3. Who were the Cham people?



## Birth

- No one but the immediate members of the household and the midwife are allowed to visit a newborn child for three days.
- Candles must be lit around the bed and ceremonial offerings made to the gods.
- Naming the child is done with great care so not to attract evil spirits.

## Adolescence

- In the old days, it was customary for girls upon reaching adolescence to be shut away in semi-darkness for six months. To measure the time, a banana tree was planted and the girls not let out until a banana appeared.

## Marriage

- In the old days, the boy's mother decided on the choice of a bride. Negotiations were carried on for as long as two years by bringing regular gifts to the girl's family.
- The wedding ceremony is Buddhist with cords of white cotton tied around the wrists. Fire is used to sanctify the union with an incense burner and three lighted candles being passed around the couple.

## Death

- The purpose of the death rites is to ease the passing of a person. He or she is shielded from the outside world.
- Bodies are usually cremated, but if the death was violent, the body is buried so that the evil spirits do not escape.

## Food

- Rice is the main food. It is cooked by boiling. It is usually served with fish and a fish sauce which may be fermented.
- The seeds of water lilies are considered delicacies.
- Food is often served on banana leaves and sometimes on water lily pads.
- Many fruits are served: bananas, rambutans, papayas, mangoes, mangosteens, melons, and pineapples. Durian is considered a great delicacy.
- The most popular drink is made from the sap of the coconut palm. Rice wine is also used.

## Houses

- Houses are built of bamboo on stilts to protect from rain, animals and evil spirits. Trees are not allowed to touch the house. Walls are made of bamboo or a plaster made of grass and leaves. The roof is made of palm leaves and, less often, rice straw.

## Community

- The family is the basis of society but family units tend to be smaller than in other Asian countries.
- Women have a position of respect. Property laws ensure that the wife can be economically independent, inheriting and passing on property on her own account. The wife does not lose her possessions in a divorce.

## Comprehension Questions

1. Describe the diet of the Cambodians.
2. Describe the customs of the Cambodians.

## Terms

cremate  
sanctify  
delicacy  
incense

## Angkor Wat

Angkor Wat is the greatest and most famous temple of Angkor. It is one of the greatest temples of the world. It is set in a rectangle with an area of about 2,357,080 square yards or 487 acres. It is approached by a wide paved avenue that leads to the wall surrounding the temple. In the center is a tower 213 feet high. This temple mountain is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Shiva. The walls of the temples are carved with stories about Hindu gods. One of these carvings is 110 yards long.

Angkor Wat, which was built in the 12th Century, is only one of several temples at Angkor which was a city that held as many as one million people.

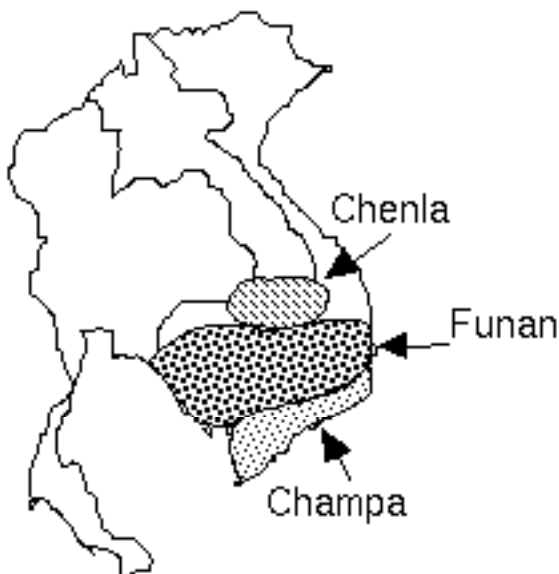
Another large structure at Angkor is Angkor Thom. Angkor Thom is gigantic. It is actually a city with a temple in the middle. It was built in a square surrounded by a high stone wall with a total length of 7 1/2 miles.



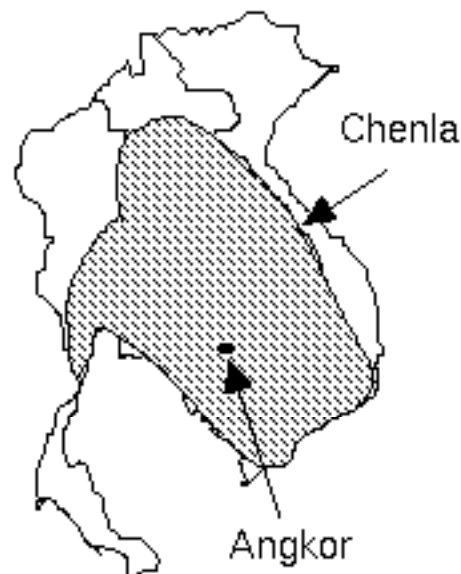
## Comprehension Questions

1. What was the most important thing to the people who lived in Angkor?
2. When was Angkor Wat built?
3. How many people lived there?
4. Briefly describe Angkor.

**Southeast Asian Empires before 627 A.D.**



**Chenla-Angkor In 1150 A.D.**



When the Khmers moved into Cambodia there were two empires there already. One was called Funan and the other was called Champa. The people who controlled Funan and Champa were Malay. Funan covered most of modern Cambodia and the middle part of Vietnam. Champa controlled the southern part of modern-day Vietnam.

The Khmers created the small state of Chenla which was located in southern Laos and northern Cambodia. In about 627 A.D. Chenla took over Funan. This was done during the reign of King Isanavarman I.

Later in the last half of the 7th Century (650 A.D. to 700 A.D.), King Jayavarman I conquered central and upper Laos. This made Chenla very powerful.

Chenla became too big and the kings that came after Jayavarman were not strong enough to hold Chenla together. Chenla split into two parts and the power of Chenla declined.

100 years later a new, strong Chenla king appeared. His name was Jayavarman II. Jayavarman II claimed to be a god king. He thought his power came from the Hindu goddess Shiva, the creator of all things. He built temples that were mountains that pointed into the sky. Jayavarman II ruled for more than 50 years and set up the new, powerful kingdom of Angkor. His reign ended in 850 A.D.

Angkor achieved great things. Angkor became a big city. It was bigger than ancient Rome.

The Angkor kingdom grew in power and influence. Under Suryavarman I it reached out to control neighboring areas. Suryavarman I controlled the greater part of Thailand,

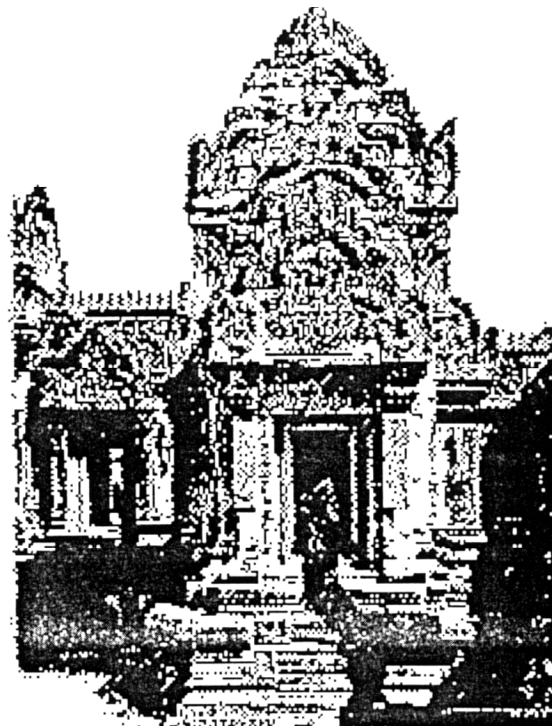
Laos and the northern part of the Malay Peninsula.

Under Suryavarman II, who ruled from 1113 to 1150 A.D., the Chenla empire became powerful. He conquered Champa. After his reign, the kingdom of Chenla began to collapse. The Cham captured the city of Angkor in 1177.

Another great king, Jayavarman VII revived the power of Angkor. He ordered a new city built, Angkor Thom. He was also a Buddhist and made Buddhism the religion of Cambodia. After his death, the Khmer empire gradually declined as it was attacked on one side by the Thai and on the other by the Vietnamese. From 1593 until the time the French took over in 1864, Cambodia was controlled by Thailand.

## Comprehension Questions

1. What kingdoms existed in Cambodia?
2. What kings were important in the history of Cambodia?





The French promised King Norodom I that they would protect Cambodia from Thailand. Cambodia became a French protectorate in 1864. The French wanted more than just to protect Cambodia, they wanted to rule it. In 1884, Norodom lost his power to a French government officer. The Cambodians revolted and fought for 18 months. After that the Cambodians accepted French control until the Japanese invaded in 1940.

When the Japanese were defeated in 1945, Norodom Sihanouk, who became king in 1941, declared Cambodia an independent country. Because of the threat of communism in Vietnam, the French recognized Cambodia as an independent country in the French Union in 1949.

Cambodia won full independence in 1954 when the communists in Vietnam defeated the French. In 1955, Sihanouk gave up his title of king so that he could run for Prime Minister of the country. Sihanouk tried to follow a policy of neutrality, not taking sides in the fight against the communists in Vietnam.

As the war between communist North Vietnam and South Vietnam grew, Sihanouk was kicked out by an army revolt led by General Lon Nol in 1970. Eventually local communists led by Pol Pot, and helped by the Vietnamese communists, took over.

## People and terms

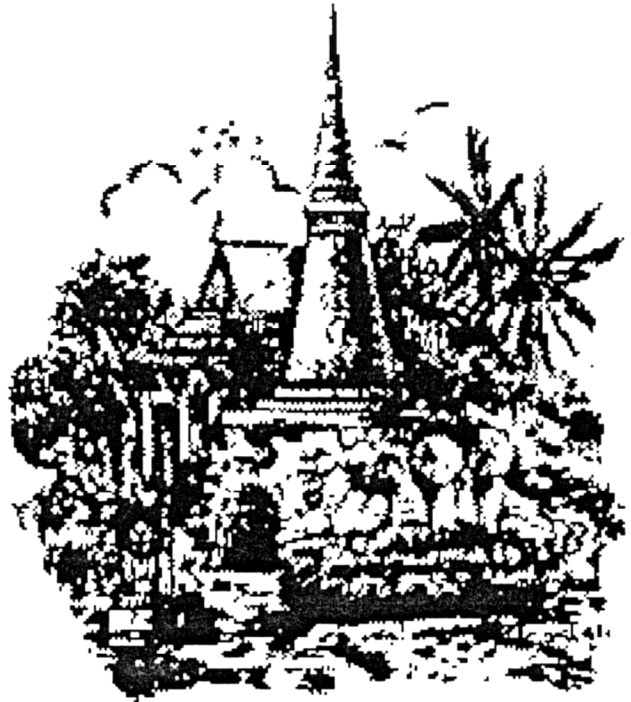
neutrality

Khmer Rouge

Norodom Sihanouk

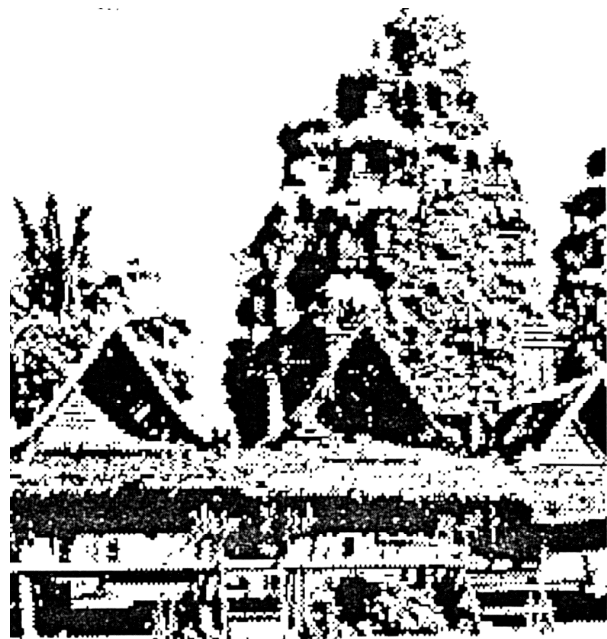
Lon Nol

Pol Pot



The policies of the Cambodian communists, called the Khmer Rouge, led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians and forced thousands to flee the country for their lives.

Vietnamese communists invaded Cambodia in 1978 and overturned the Pol Pot communist government.



It is generally thought that the area now called Laos was settled later than other parts of Indochina. The early remains of Negritos which have been found in other parts of the peninsula have not been found in Laos. The earliest inhabitants were probably people of Indonesian descent. Remains of Paleolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures have been uncovered.

The earliest tribes to live in the area were Mon and Khmer people who moved south under pressure of other waves of immigrants from China including the Thai. the population is made up of Lao and Thai people. The Lao people are concentrated along the Mekong River while the Thai people are in the hills in the north. There are other groups also found mixed with the Thai but usually in more isolated, higher mountain areas. They are the Ho, Yao, and Hmong people. In the southern part of the country in the mountain areas are the Kha people. These people are originally from Indonesia.



## Laotian Beliefs and Customs

### Religion

- The religion of Laos is Theravada Buddhism.

### Traditional Beliefs

- There are spirits called "phi" (rhymes with "eye"). These phi exist everywhere—in trees, the ground, water, air, and in thoughts.
- There are bad "phi." The phi of the forests are very bad.
- The "phi" of the family, house and village are friendly.
- Sometimes demons take possession of people. These demons are called "ho" and the people they inhabit are called "phi pop." These are "witches." In the old days they were tied hand and foot and flung into the water. If they floated, they were not witches. This is the same practice that was followed in Europe and America.

- **How the Lao people came to be.** The wise man, Khoun Borom, was sent to earth by the king of heaven to rule on earth. He found a vine with two large gourds. He punctured the gourds and men, women, all of the animals, seeds and tools that were needed jumped out. This is how the world was populated. Khoun Borom divided the land among his seven sons and it is to these seven kingdoms the people migrated.

- The soul of a person is mobile. There are 34 different souls in the body.

## Comprehension Questions

1. Who were the earliest peoples to live in Laos?
2. Briefly describe the traditional beliefs of the Lao people.

## Births

- The expectant mother must observe a variety of rules which will ensure an easy birth. The mother's behavior during pregnancy decides the character of the child.

- When the baby is born, scented rice balls are put in his hands and a red cord is wound about the necks of the mother and the child. The cord symbolizes the constant renewal of life.

## Adolescence

- At the age of 13 boys go through a hair cutting ceremony. In the old days tattoos were done to mark manhood and protect the person from evil spirits.

## Marriage

- After a couple has decided to marry, arrangements are made through a go-between who arranges the bride price, and where the couple will live after marriage.

- The bridegroom's relatives bring 100 gifts which include fish, tobacco, cakes, etc.

- The wedding is marked by a feast called a *soukhoun*.

## Death

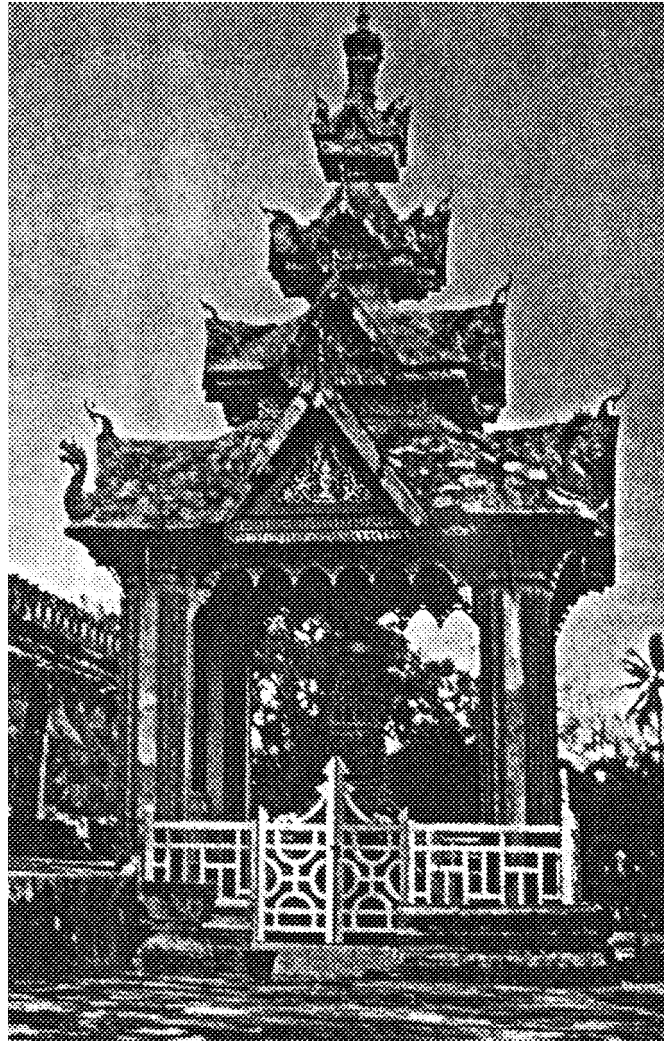
- Death is not a sad event because of the Buddhist philosophy. Death means release from the present life and the possibility of nirvana.

- If the person dies an unnatural death the ceremonies are very brief.

- If a person dies a natural death the ceremonies are elaborate and may last several weeks.

- There is a seven day vigil during which the body is kept at home. Friends and relatives visit. The body is washed often with scented water to keep it from decay.

- The body is carried to its cremation in a decorated coffin. Before the body is burned the guests eat and drink, often for many days.



## Terms

expectant  
symbolize  
bride price  
feast  
vigil  
scented

## Food

- Rice is the basis of the diet. Rice is served with fish sauce and vegetables. The fish sauce is made of salted and fermented fish. It is called padek. Meat and eggs are frequently eaten.

- "Sticky" rice is eaten. Sticky rice is cooked by soaking it for six hours. It is then steamed in a basket over a pot of boiling water. This makes the rice stick together.

- Laotians eat three meals a day. They are usually eaten at a low table.

- Alcoholic rice or fermented rice is a favorite drink.

- A typical meal will include rice flavored with hot peppers and fish sauce, or a vegetable curry.

- An unusual part of the diet is the blending of fish and meat in a dish. Dishes are usually flavored with strong sauces and peppers.

- Other dishes include steak of ox or buffalo served with a sharp sauce and herbs; chicken cooked in coconut milk; meat cooked with garlic and onion; fish preserved in acid juices and served with fermented rice.

## Houses

- Houses are built 3 to 7 feet above the ground.

- The front has a porch that has a roof over it. This is called a veranda.

- The front room is the public part of the house.

- The bedrooms are private. Each section of the family has its own sleeping quarters. Sometimes several branches of the family live together.

- The houses are built of bamboo. The floors are split bamboo. The walls are woven from bamboo stems. The roofs are built of rice straw.

- The house is part of a village and stands on one-eighth of an acre.

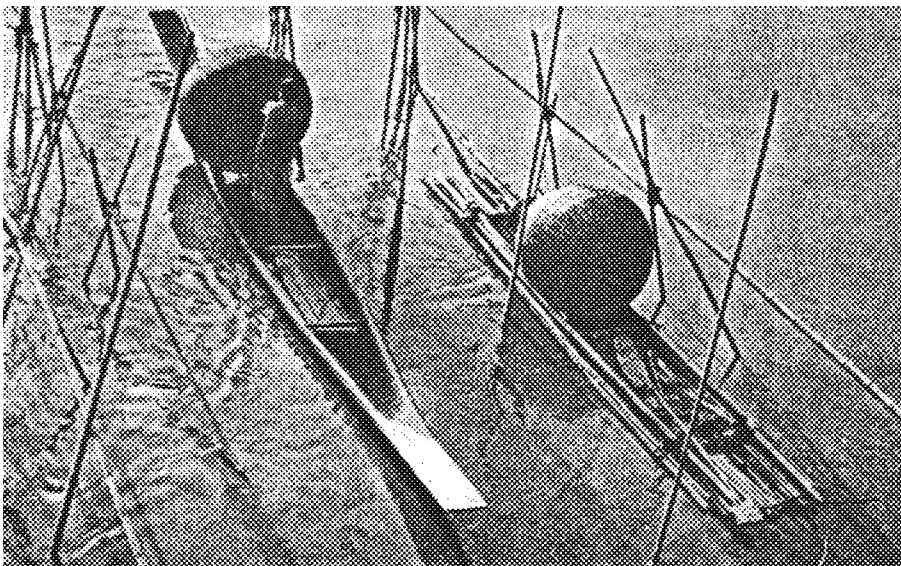
## The Community

- Laotians live in villages.

- Each village has about 200 inhabitants.

- Villages are often made up of related families.

- The village centers around a Buddhist pagoda, which is also a school, town hall, guest house and dispensary.



## Comprehension Questions

1. Describe Laotian eating habits.
2. Describe a Laotian house.
3. Describe a Laotian village.

The Lao people migrated from China in the second half of the 13th Century. They were grouped in small states under the control of Angkor. In 1353, a number of these states were united under the leadership of Fa Ngum. Fa Ngum was a Laotian prince who grew up at Angkor and married the daughter of the Khmer king, Jayavarman who helped him found Lang Chang. The capital of Lang Chang was Luang Prabang, which was built around a large statue of Buddha. He also brought Buddhism to the Lao people.

From 1416 to 1480, Laos was in conflict with the Annamese (Vietnam). During the following century Laos was at war with the Thai and Burmese. These wars began when King Phothisarath moved the capital to Vientiane, which is now called Vientiane.

When Laos was not fighting the Burmese and Thai, civil war ravaged the country. By 1707 the kingdom split in two with capitals at Luang Prabang and Vientiane. By 1778, both kingdoms were under control of the Thai; Laos remained under the control of Thailand until the arrival of the French.

It wasn't until 1893 that Laos was added to the Union of Indochina. Lao nationalists sought independence in 1945 when World War II ended. King Sisavang Vong declared Laos independent in April 1945. The French allowed Laos a certain amount of independence. Real independence was not achieved until 1954. Lao problems were not over; in fact, they were just beginning.

In 1940 a movement for Lao independence was formed. It was called Lao Issarak. Its two leaders were Prince Souvanna Phouma and Prince Souphanou Vong. After World

War II it split up. Prince Souvanna Phouma became the leader of the "neutralists." This group did not want to take sides with the communists or the west. Prince Souphanou Vong became the leader of the Pathet Lao, which was dominated by the communists.

In 1953 the Pathet Lao, with the help of the communists from North Vietnam, took control of the northern provinces of Laos. Laos became independent from the French in 1954 and fighting broke out between the Lao government and the Pathet Lao. The Lao government was controlled by Prince Boun Oum. They were supported by the United States. The forces of Boun Oum, Souvanna Phouma, who didn't want to take sides, and Souphanou Vong, who was backed by the communists, competed for control of the country. There were attempts to make peace. There was sporadic fighting. Finally, when the communists won the Vietnam war in 1975, the Pathet Lao won.

## People and terms

Fa Ngum  
Lang Chang  
Luang Prabang  
Vientiane  
Pathet Lao  
King Sisavang Vong  
Prince Souvanna Phouma  
Prince Souphanou Vong  
Prince Boun Oum  
sporadic

# Vietnam

# The People

## The People

The Vietnamese people came to Vietnam from southern China many thousands of years ago. The people who lived in Vietnam when the Vietnamese began to immigrate from China are called Moi. The Moi originally came from Indonesia. The migrating Vietnamese forced them to leave the low flatlands to live in the mountains. They live in the central mountains of Vietnam.

In the northern mountains, Thai and Muong people moved down from China. They live on the lower mountain slopes and are farmers.

More recently, the Meo and Mien have moved into the higher mountains of northern Vietnam.



## Religion

There are a number of different religions in Vietnam and the Vietnamese have gained a reputation for tolerance.

## Chinese religions

Most Vietnamese follow Chinese philosophies of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism.

There is also a religion unique to Vietnam. Cao Daism claims to unite all the world's religions.

There is a large number of Roman Catholics as well because of the French influence.

## Traditional Beliefs

### •Helping others

The Vietnamese place great emphasis on helping others.

### •Respect for ancestors

Most Vietnamese homes have an altar to ancestors.

### •Privacy

Family life is private. It is not talked about in public.

### •Festivals

The most important holiday is New Years or *Tet*.

## Comprehension questions

1. Describe the various groups that live in Vietnam.
2. Describe the Vietnamese beliefs.
3. What religions exist in Vietnam?

## Terms

*Tet*



# Vietnam

# Customs & Community

## Food

- The Vietnamese diet is based on rice, vegetables and *nuoc-mam*, a type of fish sauce used for flavoring.
- nuoc-mam* is extremely nutritious. It is very high in protein. It is made by placing a whole fish, which is salted, into a cask where it is pressed and macerated. The pulp is left to ferment for a year.
- Vietnamese meals are rarely eaten with drinks. Each course is eaten as quickly as possible.
- Various kinds of soups are popular. *Pho* is a vegetable soup served with vermicelli. *Canh* is chicken vegetable broth and *chao* is pork soup.
- Many Vietnamese dishes blend both Chinese and French cooking.
- There is very little fat used in Vietnamese cooking. Most Vietnamese are slender and they have very little heart disease.
- Duck, chicken and pork are eaten on special occasions.
- Beef and buffalo meat are very rare.
- Betel nuts are chewed. The betel nut is the seed of the areca palm.

## Housing

- In the country, houses are built on three sides of a courtyard. The fourth side is open.
- Vietnamese value privacy. The windows of houses face the inner courtyard, not the outside.

## The Community

- Vietnamese have strong family ties.
- Vietnamese have many community ties. Many villages have a *dinh* or communal house where people gather to talk.
- The land in many communities was held in common by a *lang*. These lands were rented out to members of the village.

## Comprehension questions

1. Describe the Vietnamese diet.
2. Describe a Vietnamese house.
3. Describe the Vietnamese community.

## Term

nuoc-mam



# Vietnam

# History

In 208 B.C. Trieu Da, a Chinese warlord, marched south and conquered the people in the Red River Delta. He set up his kingdom and called it Nam Viet which means Southern Country of the Viet. Less than 100 years later China took control of the kingdom and ruled it for 1,000 years.

During this time, Chinese culture was adopted by the Vietnamese. The Chinese language was adapted by the Vietnamese. The Chinese education system, and system of government were also imported. The Vietnamese began to follow the Confucian philosophy. The water buffalo and intensive rice growing was introduced.

The Vietnamese, however, did not like Chinese rule. They rebelled again and again. The most famous revolt was led by the Trung sisters. Trung Trac's husband was killed by the Chinese. She and her sister Trung Nhi led an army that defeated the Chinese. They ruled until 43 A.D. when the Chinese defeated their army.

Finally in 939 A.D. the Vietnamese defeated the Chinese. The Vietnamese began to extend their control to southern Vietnam.

European traders and missionaries began to arrive in the 16th Century. Sometimes the foreigners were welcomed and at other times the Vietnamese fought them. In the 1870s the French took control of Vietnam. Later they also gained control of Cambodia and Laos.

The French ruled Vietnam harshly. They imposed their culture on the Vietnamese. They set up large rubber plantations and forced the Vietnamese to work on them at low wages. The Vietnamese began to fight for independence. France was defeated by Ger-

many in 1940 and Japan, Germany's ally, occupied Vietnam.

When the war was over the Viet Minh took control of Vietnam. The Viet Minh was controlled by communists but included many nationalists who wanted Vietnam to be free. The Viet Minh was led by Ho Chi Minh. The French tried to reassert their control over Vietnam. A civil war began. The Viet Minh defeated the French in 1954.

The peace treaty of 1954 divided Vietnam into two parts, the north being ruled by the communists. Cambodia and Laos received their independence.

The South Vietnamese government was led by Ngo Dinh Diem. He was an ineffective ruler. Communist rebels, called the Viet Cong, in South Vietnam began to attack the government. The U.S. sent military supplies and advisors.

In 1964 the U.S. began to send large numbers of soldiers and bomb North Vietnam. The active U.S. involvement in the war began after the U.S. thought that North Vietnam attacked U.S. destroyers in the Tonkin Gulf.

The U.S. was unable to obtain a victory in Vietnam, and withdrew from active fighting in 1972. North Vietnam defeated South Vietnam in 1975. Communists also took control of Cambodia and Laos.

## Terms and people

The Trung sisters  
Viet Minh  
Ho Chi Minh  
Ngo Dinh Diem  
Viet Cong



# Vietnam

# History

In 208 B.C. Trieu Da, a Chinese warlord, marched south and conquered the people in the Red River Delta. He set up his kingdom and called it Nam Viet which means Southern Country of the Viet. Less than 100 years later China took control of the kingdom and ruled it for 1,000 years.

During this time, Chinese culture was adopted by the Vietnamese. The Chinese language was adapted by the Vietnamese. The Chinese education system, and system of government were also imported. The Vietnamese began to follow the Confucian philosophy. The water buffalo and intensive rice growing was introduced.

The Vietnamese, however, did not like Chinese rule. They rebelled again and again. The most famous revolt was led by the Trung sisters. Trung Trac's husband was killed by the Chinese. She and her sister Trung Nhi led an army that defeated the Chinese. They ruled until 43 A.D. when the Chinese defeated their army.

Finally in 939 A.D. the Vietnamese defeated the Chinese. The Vietnamese began to extend their control to southern Vietnam.

European traders and missionaries began to arrive in the 16th Century. Sometimes the foreigners were welcomed and at other times the Vietnamese fought them. In the 1870s the French took control of Vietnam. Later they also gained control of Cambodia and Laos.

The French ruled Vietnam harshly. They imposed their culture on the Vietnamese. They set up large rubber plantations and forced the Vietnamese to work on them at low wages. The Vietnamese began to fight for independence. France was defeated by Ger-

many in 1940 and Japan, Germany's ally, occupied Vietnam.

When the war was over the Viet Minh took control of Vietnam. The Viet Minh was controlled by communists but included many nationalists who wanted Vietnam to be free. The Viet Minh was led by Ho Chi Minh. The French tried to reassert their control over Vietnam. A civil war began. The Viet Minh defeated the French in 1954.

The peace treaty of 1954 divided Vietnam into two parts, the north being ruled by the communists. Cambodia and Laos received their independence.

The South Vietnamese government was led by Ngo Dinh Diem. He was an ineffective ruler. Communist rebels, called the Viet Cong, in South Vietnam began to attack the government. The U.S. sent military supplies and advisors.

In 1964 the U.S. began to send large numbers of soldiers and bomb North Vietnam. The active U.S. involvement in the war began after the U.S. thought that North Vietnam attacked U.S. destroyers in the Tonkin Gulf.

The U.S. was unable to obtain a victory in Vietnam, and withdrew from active fighting in 1972. North Vietnam defeated South Vietnam in 1975. Communists also took control of Cambodia and Laos.

## Terms and people

The Trung sisters  
Viet Minh  
Ho Chi Minh  
Ngo Dinh Diem  
Viet Cong

The Hmong (the "H" is not pronounced) and other hill peoples have similar patterns of living. They live in small villages with houses made of wood or bamboo. The family is very important to them. A typical household will consist of the mother and father and the unmarried children. It will also include the married sons and their families.

They make their living through slash-and-burn farming. They cut down the trees and burn the brush to plant their crops. When the land is worn out the entire village moves. This takes place every four or five years.

Their food is mostly rice. They also grow corn and keep pigs and chickens.

For cash some will grow opium which is used as a medicine. They also grow coffee and tea to sell for money.

The people of the village make most of the things they need. Women sew the clothes and men make the tools. Each village usually has a blacksmith to make metal tools including guns.

## Religion

Hmong believe in spirits. The most important spirit is the spirit of the door which keeps out evil spirits. Each home has an altar.

## Comprehension Questions

1. What is the Hmong diet?
2. Describe the Hmong family.

## Terms

slash-and-burn



## Birth

- A Baby is delivered by the “Baby Goddess.”
- The baby has no soul for the first three days. If the baby dies in the first three days there is no funeral.
- Only a midwife or husband is present at birth.
- The placenta is buried in the dirt floor of the house.
- The mother eats only chicken and rice for twenty days after birth.

## Marriage

- Girls must marry outside the clan.
- Courting is done at the New Year’s festival.
- If the boy likes the girl, he must receive the permission of the parents.
- The boy’s family pays for the wedding and pays a bride price. The bride price is paid in silver ingots.

## Death

- A proper funeral is very important for passage to the next life.
- It is better to die at home or at the home of a clan member.
- There are elaborate funeral rituals.
- Special clothing is worn by the deceased.
- Red threads are tied to the fingers so that they have an excuse not to work in their passage to the next life.
- The bodies are buried.

## Houses

- Each house has a large main room.
- There is a sleeping platform for guests.
- Blue Hmong have one door in the middle facing downslope.
- White Hmong have a side door.
- There are sleeping areas for children and for parents.

## Community

- Villages are built at a high altitude.
- No two houses are built in a straight line to prevent spirits from leaving one house and entering another.
- The number of houses in a village depends upon the amount of land available.

## Family

- Head of household is the eldest male.
- When the head of the household dies the married sons move.
- Girls must marry into a different clan.
- There is no open conflict in the family.



## Comprehension Questions

1. Describe the Hmong house and village.

## Terms

clan  
bride price



Hmong legends tell about how their ancestors lived in an icy land where the nights were long. Some think that the Hmong came from Siberia. No one knows for sure. However, Chinese records indicate that the Hmong lived in China over 3,000 years ago.

The Hmong often fought the Chinese for independence. The Hmong moved to Laos and Thailand in the 19th century. There are about 4 million Hmong living in China, Laos and Thailand today.

The Hmong people are also called Meo and are divided into two groups: the white Hmong and blue or green Hmong. They speak different dialects. The Hmong did not have a written language until the 1950's.

The Hmong are very independent people and are willing to fight to keep their way of life. The Hmong became allies of the U.S. military in its fight against communist North Vietnam in the 1960's. When the war was

over and the communists won they began to attack Hmong villages in the mountains of Laos.

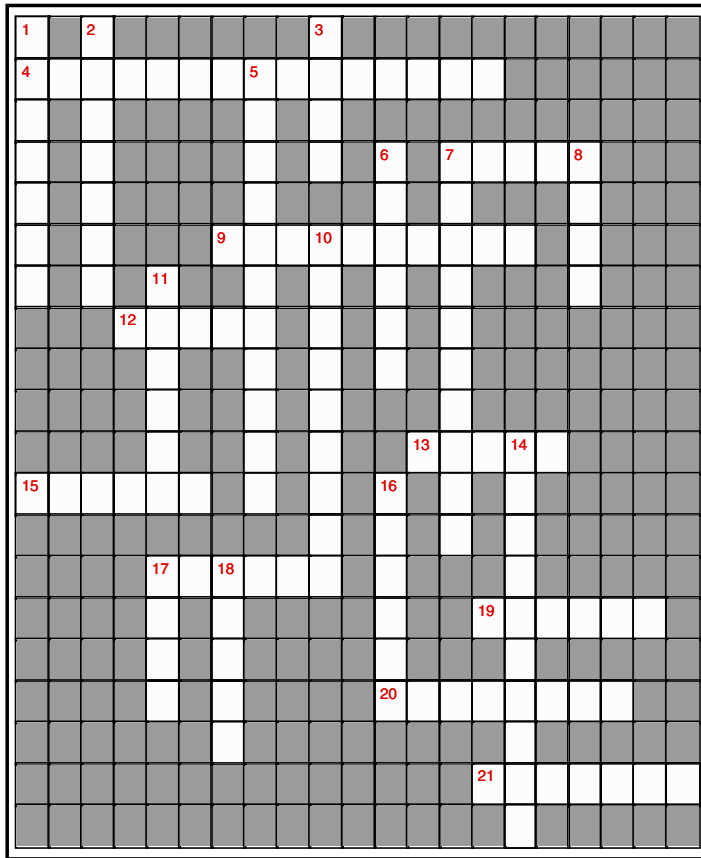
The Hmong were forced to flee to Thailand. Many Hmong settled in the United States as refugees from communism.

## Comprehension Questions

1. Where did the Hmong come from?
2. Why did the Hmong become refugees?



# Cambodia



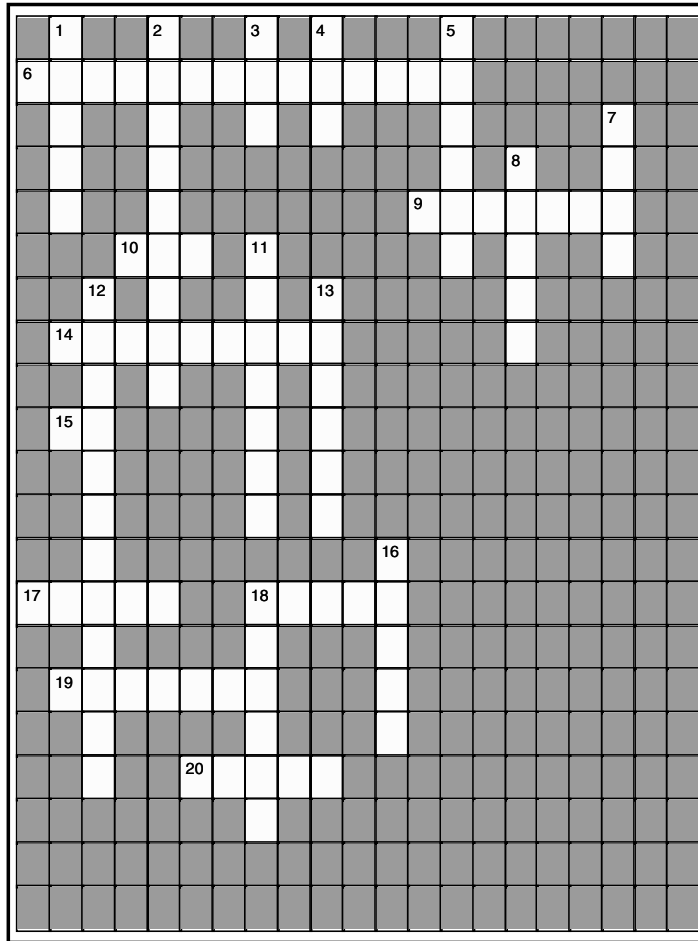
## ACROSS

- 4 An important leader in Cambodia (two words).
- 7 The name of the people.
- 9 The first to conquer Laos.
- 12 Hindu goddess.
- 13 One of the early empires.
- 15 An exotic fruit.
- 17 Leader of the Khmer Rouge (two words).
- 19 Military leader of Cambodia when the communists took over (two words).
- 20 Fire is used to \_\_\_\_ marriage.
- 21 A popular drink is made from this.

## DOWN

- 1 Used in ceremonies.
- 2 What is done with the dead.
- 3 People who came from India.
- 5 A ruler of Angkor.
- 6 One of the two early empires.
- 7 Cambodian communists (two words).
- 8 A principal food.
- 10. Famous temple in Angkor.
- 11 The first Cambodian empire.
- 14 A large temple city.
- 16 Houses are built on these.
- 17 The written language.
- 18 An important flower.

# Laos



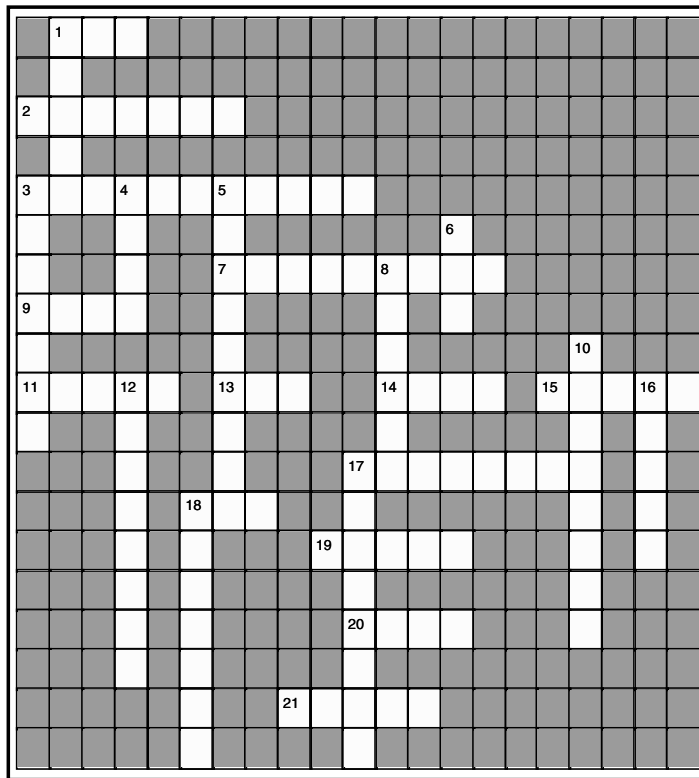
## ACROSS

- 6 A prince who led independence movement.
- 9 A long, covered porch.
- 10 A mountain people.
- 14 The current capital of Laos.
- 15 \_\_\_\_ Ngum, the founder of Laos.
- 17 A long period of watching.
- 18 \_\_\_\_ price is paid by husband.
- 19 A ruler of Laos after WW II (2 wds.).
- 20 A people who live in the mountains.

## DOWN

- 1 Khoun \_\_\_\_, a wise man in Lao mythology.
- 2 An old name for Luang Prabang (2 wds.).
- 3 A mountain people.
- 4 Spirits.
- 5 \_\_\_\_ Lao, Laotian communist party.
- 7 One of the groups that inhabit Laos.
- 8 Fermented fish sauce.
- 11 Luang \_\_\_\_.
- 12 Declared Laos independent in 1945 (2 wds.).
- 13 A major river in Laos.
- 16 A large meal.
- 18 A plant that provides building material.

# Vietnam



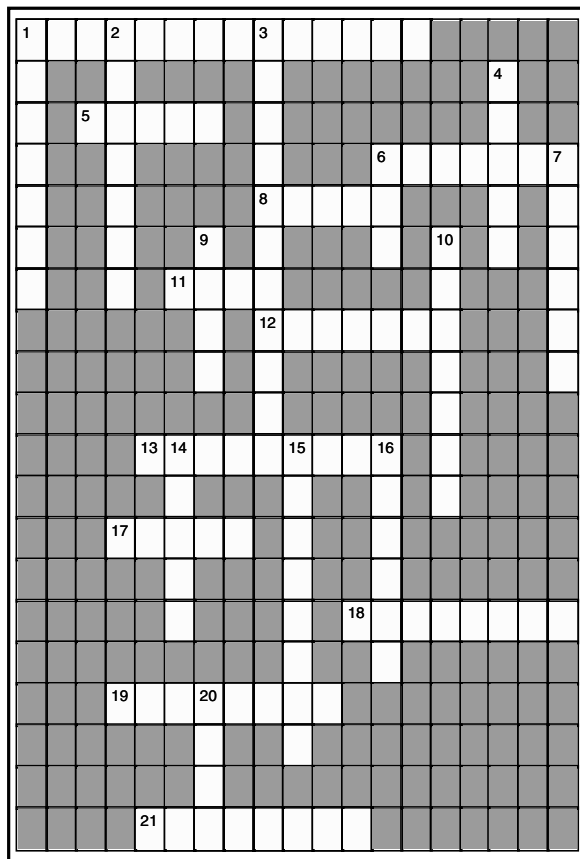
## ACROSS

- 1 New Years.
- 2 Used for work; rarely eaten.
- 3 Leader of South Vietnam (three words).
- 7 A Chinese philosophy influential in Vietnam.
- 9 Chicken vegetable broth.
- 11 A place of worship.
- 13 Original inhabitants of Vietnam.
- 14 Eaten on special occasions.
- 15 To flavor food.
- 17 Communists who fought against the French (two words).
- 18 Vegetable soup.
- 19 Nuts.
- 20 Pork soup.
- 21 Capital of Vietnam.

## DOWN

- 1 \_\_\_\_ sisters fought the Chinese.
- 3 Fermented fish sauce (two words).
- 4 A community house.
- 5 Leader of the communists (three words).
- 6 A Chinese philosophy.
- 8 A religion unique to Vietnam (two words).
- 10 An important western religion in Vietnam.
- 12 Vietnamese worship these.
- 16 Vietnamese originally came from here.
- 17 Communists who fought in South Vietnam (two words).
- 18 Vietnamese want to protect their \_\_\_\_.

# Hmong



## ACROSS

- 1 Can take care of all their own needs.
- 5 A block of a precious metal.
- 6 Helps deliver babies.
- 8 Bride \_\_\_\_.
- 11 A group of related people.
- 12 A version of a basic language.
- 13 Where the Hmong live.
- 17 Where the Hmong lived long ago.
- 18 When young people meet for marriage (two words).
- 19 The sac a baby comes in.
- 21 What is not tolerated in a Hmong family.

## DOWN

- 1 Where some think the Hmong originated.
- 2 The Hmong have elaborate ceremonies about this.
- 3 The Hmong do not like being told what to do. They are \_\_\_\_.
- 4 A group of Hmong.
- 6 Another name for Hmong.
- 7 The \_\_\_\_ male is the leader.
- 9 A type of Hmong.
- 10 Hmong must marry \_\_\_\_ their clan.
- 14 Grown by the Hmong and used as medicine.
- 15 Believe in spirits.
- 16 Precious metal used by Hmong.
- 20 Grown by the Hmong.



# Angkor Wat

---

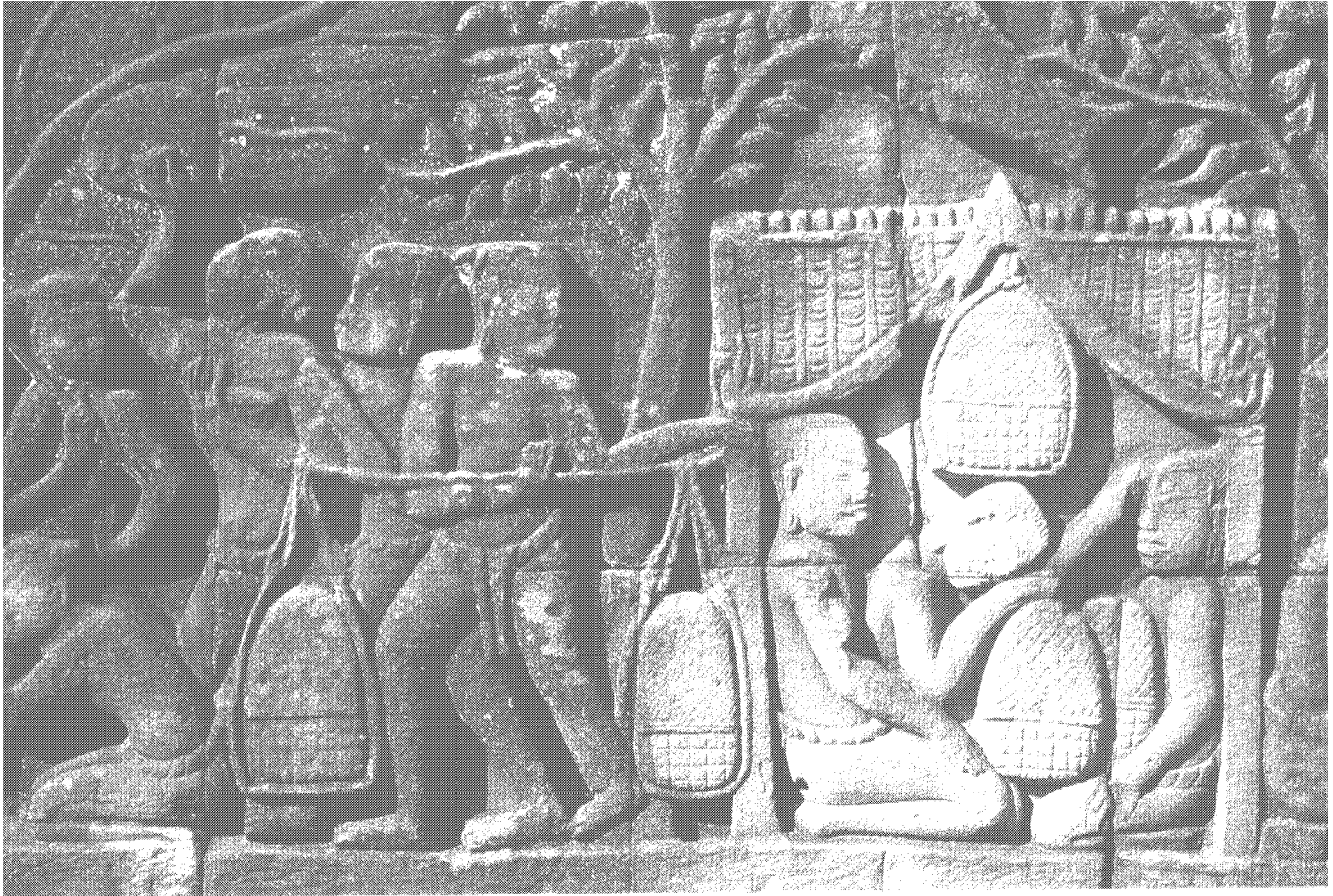


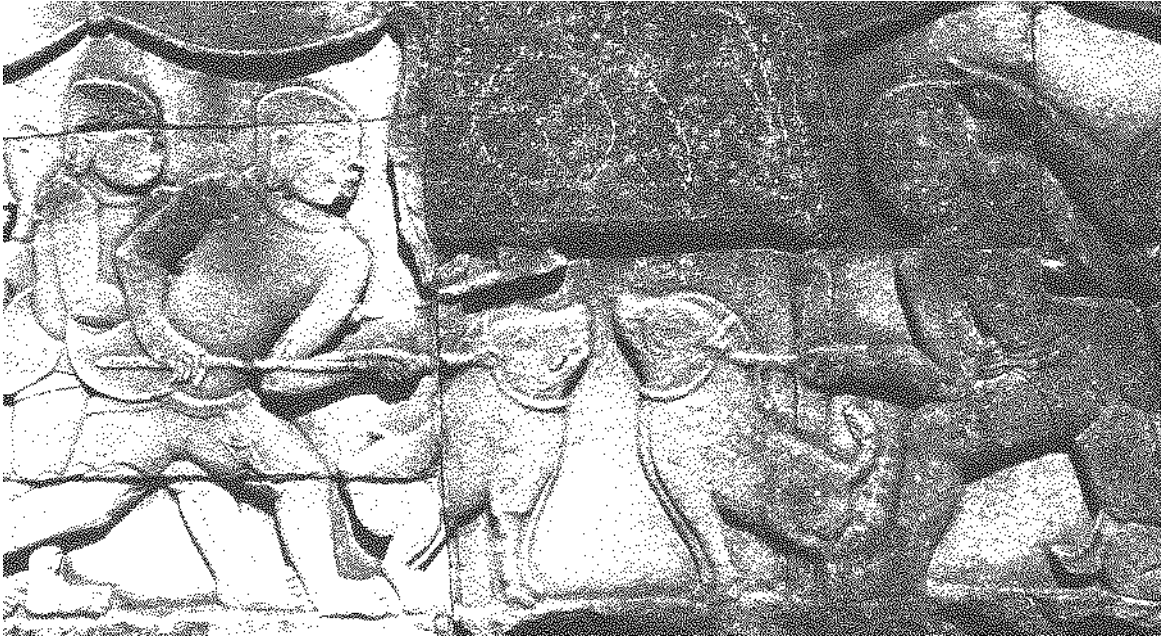
Draw what you think the central temple of Angkor Wat would look like from the top down. Draw a plan for the temple.



## Directions

Angkor is famous for its many carvings. The walls are filled with bas-relief carvings showing aspects of Khmer life 1,000 years ago. Much of what we know about the Khmer is based upon these carvings. On the next three pages are some examples. What can you tell about Khmer life from these few examples?





## Ask Questions

What are the objects in the pictures?

What are these people doing?

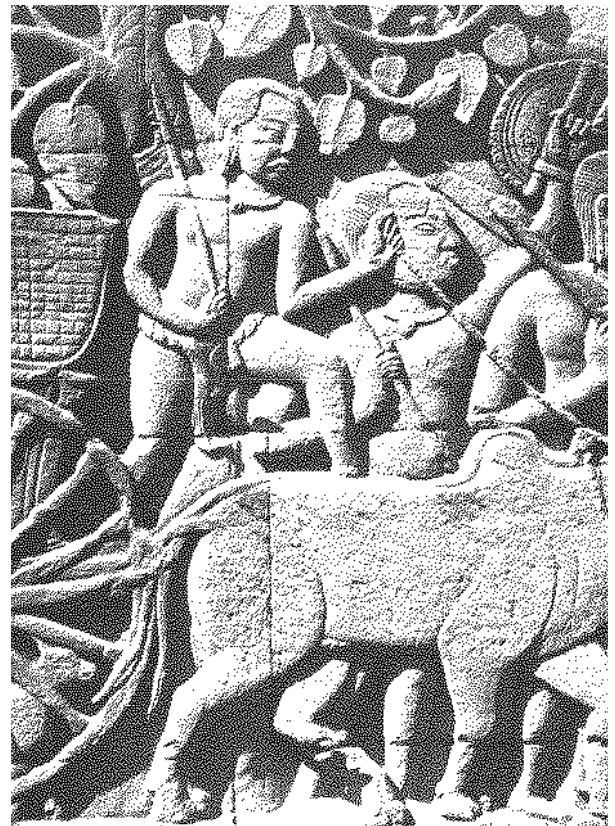
Why do you think they are doing it?

## Don't overlook the obvious

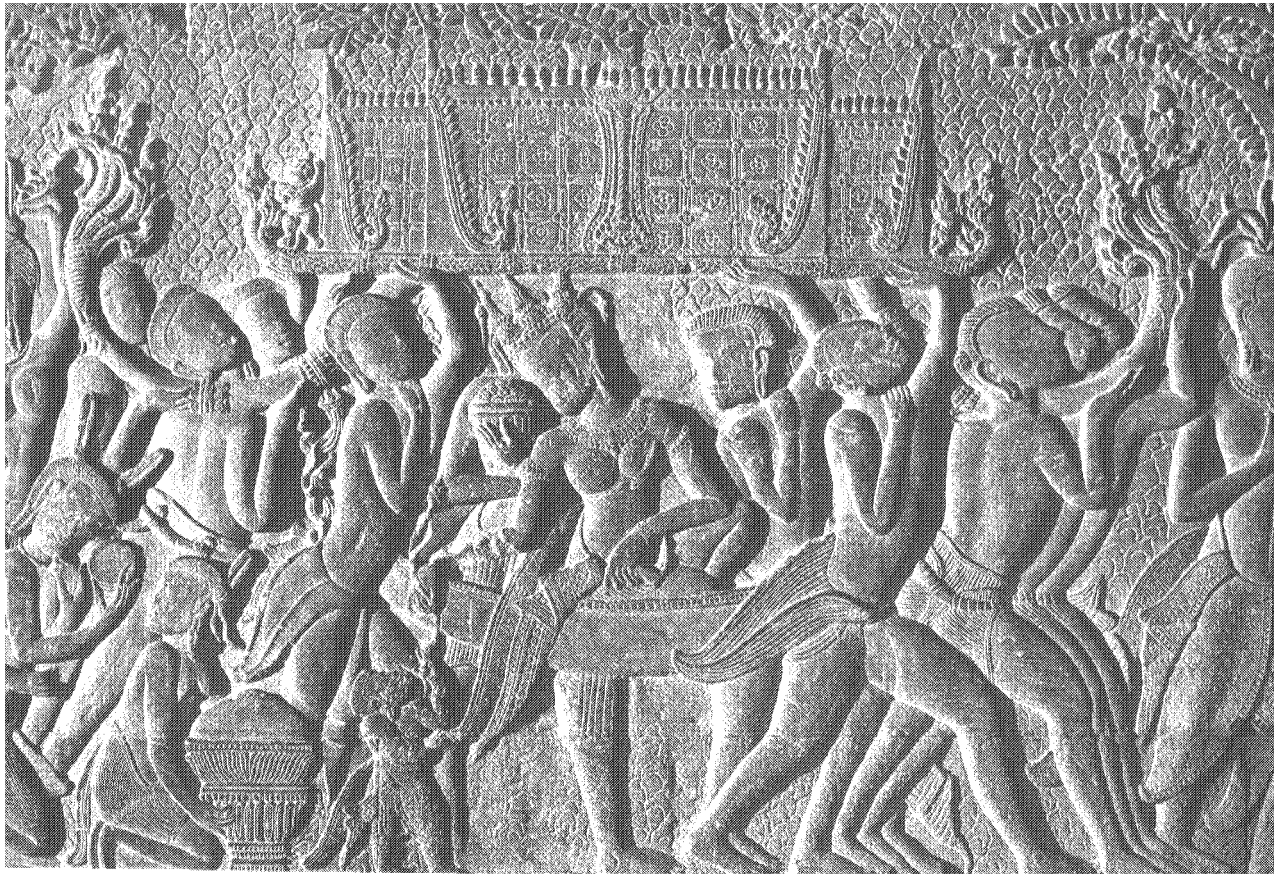
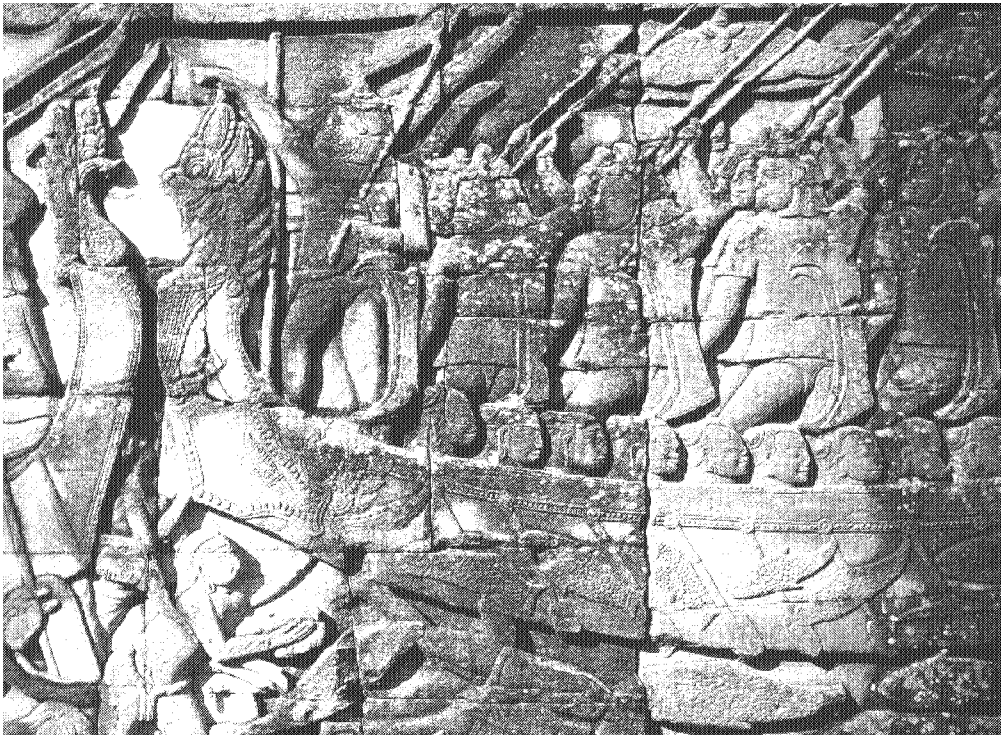
How do people dress?

What kinds of tools do they have?

What kinds of animals are there?







## Aren't We All Human Beings ?

One day a king was taking a long trip on his boat. It was a hot, sunny day. The boatmen had to row many hours in the hot sun. The king and his advisors rested under the shade of canopies. The boatmen began to complain. They said it was unfair that they had to do all the hard work while the advisors rested in the shade. One of them said, "Aren't we all human beings?" The king pretended to be asleep but he heard everything that the boatmen said.

At night the boat pulled ashore. The boatmen ate and quickly fell asleep because they were tired. The king heard noises coming from a nearby temple. He awakened one of the boatmen who had been complaining and sent him to find out what the noises were.

The boatman went to the temple and returned. He told the king there were some puppies making noise. The king asked how many puppies there were. The boatman said he hadn't counted them. The king asked him to return to count the puppies. The boatman did so.

When the boatman returned he said there were five. The king asked how many of the puppies were male and female. The boatman didn't know, so he went back to the temple to find out.

When the boatman returned he said that two were female and three were male. The king asked what color they were. The boatman returned to the temple to find out.

The boatman returned to report that they were white, black and brown.

The king then awakened one of his advisors and sent him to the temple to find out what the noise was. The advisor returned and said that it was some puppies making noise. The king asked how many and the advisor said five. The king asked how many were male and female and the advisor said three were male and two were female. The king asked what color they were and the advisor said they were white, black and brown and the mother was black and that they belonged to a priest of the temple.

The king turned to the boatman and told him that he had to send him to the temple four times to find out the same information that his advisor found out in one trip. He pointed out that this was why some people were advisors to the king and some were boatmen, even though we are all human beings.

## The Big Liar

---

There was a boy who lived with his aunt and uncle. He was called the Big Liar because he was always playing tricks on people. One day his uncle went to plow a field while his aunt stayed home to do housework. The Big Liar went to the field where his uncle was working. He shouted at his uncle that his aunt had fallen off a ladder and was bleeding badly. The uncle began to run home. Big Liar took a short cut and arrived home first.

He told his aunt that his uncle had been attacked by a buffalo in the field. He said that it looked as if the animal had stuck his horns in his belly and he might die. His aunt ran toward the fields. The Big Liar laughed and went to hide behind the house.

The aunt and uncle ran into each other. Both knew they had been tricked by the Big Liar. They went home and found the Big Liar hiding behind the house.

They put the boy in a bamboo cage and closed the lid. They told him that they were going to throw him into the river and drown him. The boy asked that they get him a book so he could read it when he went to Hell. The aunt and uncle could not refuse his last request so they went to look for a book.

A blind man came by while they were looking for the book. The Big Liar said to the blind man that he could make him see again if he let him out of the cage. The blind man let him out and the Big Liar ran away. The aunt and uncle could not find the book and returned to find the empty cage and the blind man waiting to be cured of his blindness.

The Big Liar went to hide in bamboo by the river. While hiding he found a pot of gold. He took it home to his aunt and uncle. Now they were rich. The aunt and uncle thought the only way they could stop him from lying was to have him marry a good girl. They arranged a marriage to a good girl.

He continued to lie and cheat.

One day the Big Liar found some tiger cubs in the forest. Since he was a very bad person he broke the paws of the tiger cubs. The baby tigers cried with pain. The mother of the tiger cubs came to help her babies. The Big Liar hid in the bushes. He saw the mother take some leaves from a tree and rub the paws of the cubs. In a few minutes the cubs were healed.

When the tigers left the Big Liar dug up the tree and took it home. He planted it and called it a banyan. He told his wife that the tree was given to him by a god and that it could cure sickness. He told his wife never to throw garbage at the foot of the tree or it would fly away. His wife did not believe the Big Liar.

One day she became angry at her husband and threw garbage at the foot of the tree. The tree began to shake and pulled itself from the ground. The Big Liar rushed to the tree and grabbed one of its roots. The tree flew into the sky with the Big Liar holding on to the roots. The tree flew all the way to the moon where it has remained ever since. If you look carefully at the moon you can see the tree with the Big Liar seated at its foot.

## The Tbal Kdoong

Once there was a rich young widow living in the country. She lived with her brothers and sisters. The widow had a baby who was frail and sickly. A scoundrel living in a nearby village wanted to rob her. He watched the house.

The scoundrel told his friend that he would dress up as a Buddhist monk in a yellow robe to trick the widow. He would wait until she was alone when all of her brothers and sisters went to the fields to work.

One day he went up to the house. The widow was sitting in front with her sickly baby. She thought he was a Buddhist monk and asked him what he wanted. He said he came from a temple and was out collecting candles for the temple. He asked her why she was alone. She said she had to stay at home because her baby was so sickly.

He asked what sickness the baby had and why she hadn't taken him to the doctor. She said that doctors could not cure the baby. The robber said he knew all about this sickness and how to cure it.

The robber told her to prepare an altar with incense, candles and bananas. She prepared the altar and invited the scoundrel in the house. He said some prayers at the altar. He then asked her if she had a tbal kdoong. A tbal kdoong is a mill for grinding rice. She told him that there was one behind the house.

The robber told her to take her baby and put it in the large bowl under the grinder. The woman obeyed. The robber told the woman to jump on the lever that lifted the grinder above the bowl. The woman did as she was told. The robber told her to stay there while he went in the house to get some candles and incense for a prayer ceremony. Inside the house the robber stole the woman's gold and ran away.

The woman could not do anything. If she jumped off the lever, the grinder would fall into the bowl and crush her baby. She stayed there all day until her brothers and sisters came home.

## A Father, A Son and A Donkey

(Cambodia)

**First Narrator:** A long time ago in Cambodia there was a poor farmer named Chow Khok and his son. They had a fine young donkey.

**Chow:** If we take this donkey to market and sell it, we can make a lot of money.

**Son:** The market is a long way from here, Papa. The donkey will be skinny by the time we reach the market and we will not make much money.

**Chow:** I have a plan. We will tie the donkey's ankles to a pole and carry it to market. It will be just as fat when we get there as it is now.

**Second Narrator:** They began their trip to the market with the donkey tied by the feet to a pole they carried on their shoulders.

**First Narrator:** They met a group of travelers on the road.

**First Traveller:** What is this?

**Second Traveller:** It looks like two fools carrying a donkey.

**First Traveller:** They apparently don't know that donkeys are to be ridden, not carried.

**First Narrator:** The father and the son stopped to discuss the situation.

**Chow:** I don't like being made fun of.

**Son:** Maybe they were right.

**Chow:** I know what we can do.

**Son:** What?

**Chow:** You are smaller and lighter than me. You ride the donkey and I will walk.

**Son:** That is a good idea.

**Second Narrator:** That is what they did and they went on their way.

**First Narrator:** Soon they met a group of strangers.

**First Stranger:** I've never seen anything so disrespectful.

**Second Stranger:** Don't those fools know that the old should ride and the young should walk?

**First Stranger:** That boy has no respect for his father.

**Second Narrator:** When the strangers had passed, the father and son stopped and talked.

**Son:** They were right. It is disrespectful for me to ride while you walk.

**Chow:** Let us change places, then. You walk and I'll ride.



# Play

---

**First Narrator:** They continued on their way. They entered a village and a group of young girls began to make fun of them.

**First Girl:** Look at that old man riding the donkey. He looks like a monkey.

**Second Girl:** And the handsome young son has to walk.

**First Girl:** The best looking should ride and the ugly should walk.

**Second Narrator:** The father and son stopped again to discuss the situation.

**Chow:** It is most embarrassing that young girls make fun of us.

**Son:** That is true. What should we do?

**Chow:** I know. We will both ride the donkey.

**First Narrator:** They both climbed on the donkey and continued on their way until they came to a customs station.

**Customs Officer:** Stop. Where are you going?

**Chow:** We are taking this donkey to market to sell it.

**Customs Officer:** You won't get much for that donkey if both of you ride it all the way to market.

**Chow:** People we have met along the road say that donkeys are for riding.

**Customs Officer:** That donkey isn't big enough to carry both of you. You will break its back and the donkey will be worth nothing.

**Son:** He is right, father. We should get off.

**Chow:** Let's just walk.

**Son:** That is a good idea.

**Second Narrator:** They continued on their way walking beside the donkey. While passing through a farmer's field, the farmer stopped them.

**Farmer:** Watch your step. This field is filled with sharp thorns. You will cut your feet.

**Chow:** We will be careful.

**Farmer:** Haven't you heard that you ride donkeys? That's what they're for.

**Chow:** We have heard so many things.

**Farmer:** The donkey's thick skin and hair will protect it from the thorns. You two will cut your feet badly.

**First Narrator:** Chow and his son sat down beside the donkey and wondered what to do next.

**The End**