

Description of the Hmong Story Cloth

The history within the story cloth begins in the upper left corner, where the Hmong people are pictured during the time of the Great Hmong Kingdom which started in 400 A.D. Reading the cloth from left to right, one sees scenes of Chinese battles against the Hmong. The cloth shows Hmong escaping from the Great Wall of China to settle in the country of Laos. In the far right corner, the cloth shows how the CIA recruited Hmong soldiers to fight guerrilla warfare in Vietnam during the 1960s. The cloth depicts how Hmong fought against the communist North Vietnamese and the attacks on Hmong villages during the Vietnam War.

By 1975 the government of Vietnam took control of Laos and forced the Hmong people to become refugees or face execution. The cloth depicts how the Hmong people escaped into the rain forests and fled across the Mekong River into Thailand.

The scenes at the base of the cloth depict life in refugee camps in Thailand. There are scenes that show the Hmong people waiting to be processed as refugees and a scene that shows Hmong leaving the airport for allied nations including the United States.