

## Hmong notes

WORDS FOR THE DAY: GENOCIDE: the deliberate extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group. CLAN: a division of a tribe/cultural group tracing descent from a common ancestor (but often includes unrelated people as well that have been adopted into the clan).

1. Explain to the students that today Wisconsin is one of just a handful of states where large numbers of Hmong live. Other states are MN, TX, and CA, and there are a fair number in NC and MI. When they first arrived they were brought to all the states. But after getting settled, the Hmong ended up moving to areas where their clans were.
2. The Hmong adapted well in Milwaukee. Even though they arrived not knowing how to do simple things like turning on lights or flushing toilets, they learned fast. Within three generations they were highly educated, contributing members of our society.
3. Like most Asian and African cultural groups, the Hmong traditionally worshipped their ancestors. About half of the urbanized Hmong in Milwaukee still do.

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