

LESSON TWO

Costumes of Miao Ethnic Group



The Miao ethnic group live primarily in the mountains of southern China. Miao costumes have many styles and are considered to be the most gorgeous costumes of all the ethnic groups in China. In 2006, Miao costumes were among the first items included on the list of China's National Intangible Cultural Heritage. Miao costumes are bright and colorful and made by hand using traditional techniques of weaving, spinning, sewing, embroidery, and dyeing. The designs represent natural elements including the sky, earth, people, plants, and animals.

Casual wear is not typically as bright and fancy, but during festivals and other big events, Miao people will wear fancy costumes to celebrate. There is a noticeable difference between men's and women's wear. Men typically wear a short coat with pants and a belt, which are embroidered, but not as elaborately as women's clothing. Fancy costumes for women typically include a very elaborately embroidered skirt and jacket worn in multiple layers and elaborate silver ornaments. The silver ornaments worn by Miao women make them distinct from all other ethnic groups. These silver ornaments include large crowns and collars, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings.

Student Activity:

Over the course of these lessons, you will learn about six different Chinese ethnic groups. Choose an ethnic group from those we have briefly described. Research and learn more about your chosen group's clothing, style and traditions.

Recreate OR design your own clothing or accessory (hat, shoes, jewelry, etc.) using the information you have learned.

Submissions can include entire outfits to elaborate hair pins and may be submitted in any of the following forms:

- Doll-sized clothing
- Accessories
- Full sized garments
- Sketches/hand drawn designs

You can submit a photo or document of your traditional Chinese clothing here:

<https://bit.ly/2Zv6D1g>

Teachers! You have a chance to win a \$500 Visa Gift Card when your student(s) enter this contest! Students! You have a chance to win a \$250 Visa Gift Card just by submitting your entry!



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