

LESSON THREE

Chinese Bai Costumes



The Bai region is in southwest China, mainly in Yunnan Province, around the city of Dali. Bai people prefer white clothes (“Bai” means white in Chinese), but they also wear bright and beautiful clothes made from tie-dyed cloth, a traditional craft of the Bai people. The elements of Bai clothing represent the wind, flowers, snow and moon. Bai men wear white shirts and pants, an embroidered vest, and a white turban. The shape and form of Bai women’s clothing includes three parts: white dress or trousers, an embroidered coat and a headdress. The headdress is the most distinctive part of the costume and is made from bands of fabric embroidered with flowers that is wrapped around the head and tied in the back. The headdress has a distinctive white fringe around the top, a colorful band at the base, and a long white tassel hanging to one side. Bai women also wear jewelry made of gold and silver.

Bai people who live in the city of Heqing, not far from Dali, wear clothes that are much simpler compared to the clothing of the Bai people living in Dali. Their clothes are generally darker, and the women’s hats are not so large and ornate.

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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