

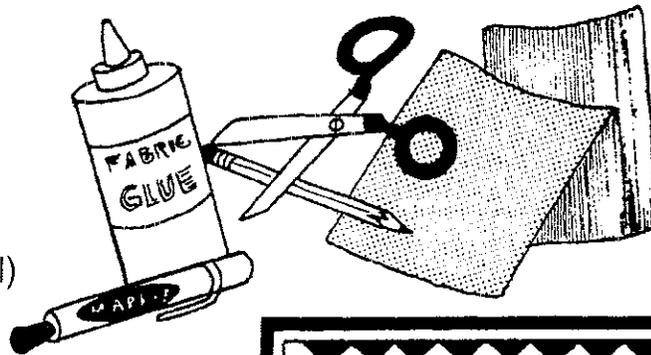
Making a Story Cloth

Story cloths made by the Hmong people of Southeast Asia are very much like the craft called applique, a type of needlework done elsewhere in which pieces of material are cut, arranged, and sewn together to make a picture. A unique feature of the Hmong story cloth is the addition of writing to explain and add to the picture.

Looking at pictures of Hmong story cloths will give you some ideas. There are beautiful examples of this art in *Folk Stories of the Hmong: Peoples of Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam* by Norma J. Livo and Dia Cha. You will notice that the colors used are extremely vivid, so try to choose fabrics in bright colors.

Materials:

- drawing paper
- pencils, markers
- scissors
- scraps of fabric
- fabric square
- fabric glue
- needles, thread (optional)
- fabric paint (optional)



Directions:

1. Draw a picture of an incident from a book you have read or from your own life.
2. Cut out the main shapes from these pictures and use them as patterns to cut matching shapes from material.
3. Glue (or sew) these cut-out fabric shapes to your fabric square to recreate your picture. Add other fabric shapes as needed to complete the picture.
4. Use fabric paint or markers to add words and decorative touches to your story cloth.

