

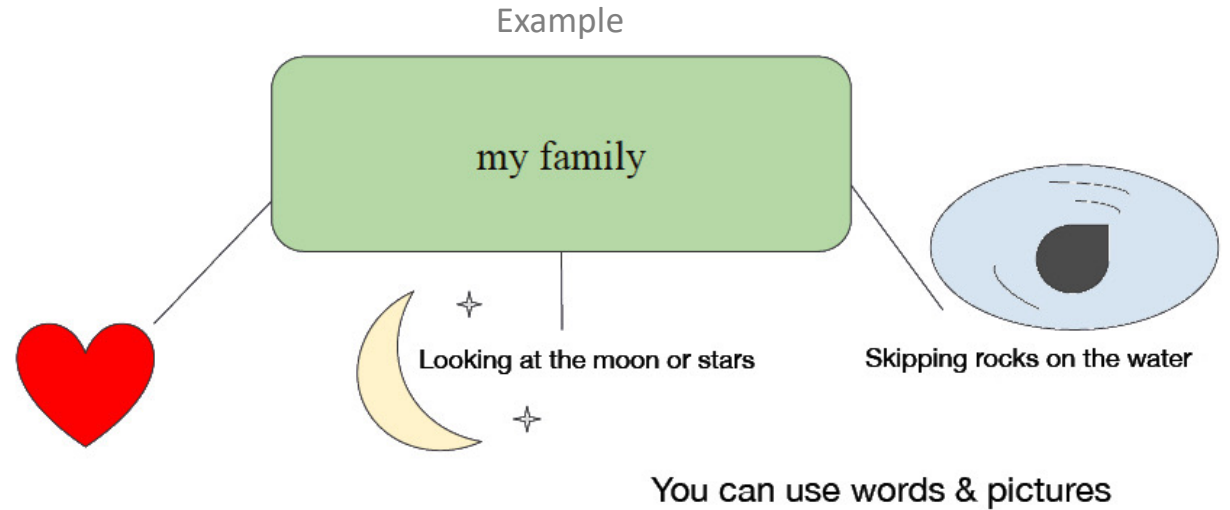
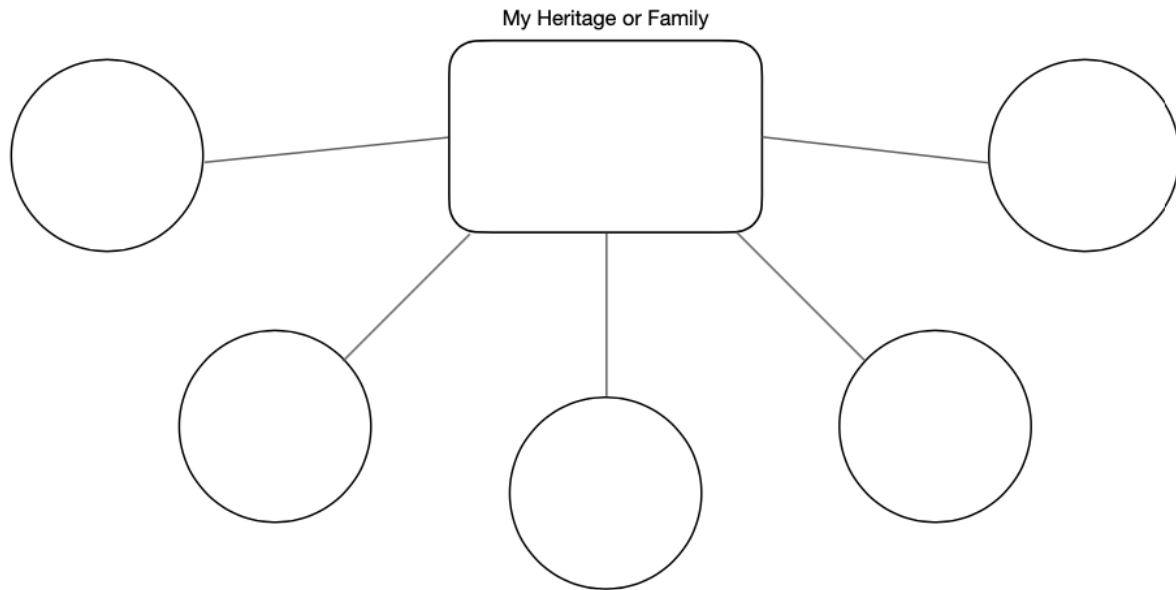


Where Do Your Roots Lead to?

Hmong - Symbols - Patterns



Activity





paj ntaub (“pahn-dow”)

Paj ntaub is Hmong for “flower cloth”

Flower cloths:

- tell a stories about the Hmong people as they were uprooted from their homes
- use symbols special to the person who made it and their family

Hmong elders share that their ancestors called it the Flower Cloth because the embroidery patterns resemble how the petals of a flower, stemming out evenly from its center.

- From the Hmong Museum in St. Paul, MN

What is a Symbol?



Xiong Lee's star and snail motif

[Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society Collection](#)



Hmong Symbols & Motifs

Hmong symbol images
from: [Hmong
Embroidery.org](http://HmongEmbroidery.org)



Elephant Foot Print
Ko Taw Nixhw



Cucumber/
Pumpkin Seeds
*Noob Dib
Noob Taub*



House
Luw Tsev



Snail
Qab Qwj



Mountains
Roog



Rice Seeds
Noob Nplej



Rickrack Steps
Tus Ntaiv



Leaf Frond
Nplooj Kaus Suab



Hook
Tus Khawb



Pinwheel



Sun
Hnub



Sun
Hnub



Observing

What observations can you make about these Hmong embroidered cloths?



Mao Yang's, paj ntaub table cover
[Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society Collection](#)



Yee Xiong
[Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society Collection](#)



Xab Lee's paj ntaub, 1988
[Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society Collection](#)