

What the krama means to me | By Thou (15)

The krama is the traditional cloth of Cambodia. It is like a long scarf but stronger and more interesting because it has small squares in a check which makes it special to Cambodia.

A krama comes in many beautiful colours and is used by all Cambodian, young and old people, rich and poor. In our country, we can use a krama for many different things.

At work, we can use it to pick up things so our hands don't hurt, we can tie it around our faces so the dust doesn't go in our nose. In the rice fields we can wrap it around our heads to protect us from the sun.

When we play, we can use it for hide and seek and to make swings or climb trees. In my family, my father wears a krama like a skirt and my mum wears one on her head or over her shoulder and uses for many things during the day; to carry food and water, to make a hammock for my baby sister to sleep in, to hold hot things.

The krama is always a good present to buy our grandmas and grandpas.

The Green Gecko kids also wear them for showers and when we are practising our traditional martial art called Bokator, the colour krama you wear means how many moves you know. Now we have a white krama but soon we will have green.



Get creative! | Paper weaving

Weave your own colourful design out of paper, inspired by the Cambodian krama!

1. Cut a piece of coloured paper into a square and fold in half.
2. Cut straight lines about 1cm apart, starting from the folded edge and stopping 1cm before the opposite edge. You might want to draw ruled lines in pencil first!
3. Open up the paper.
4. Cut 1cm thick strips out of a new piece of paper in a contrasting colour.
5. Weave through the main coloured paper and glue or tape at each end, continuing until finished.
6. Share your paper weaving with someone special and tell them what you learnt about Cambodia today!

