

Narrated by: Denzel Washington

Baka = Pygmies (a name which was given to them by Europeans and that they do not like as they think of as derogatory.)

- ★ Women build Nightly Shelter; The temporary camp is within easy reach of rivers-
  - w/ saplings and large broad leaves
  - strong enough to keep out the heaviest storm
  - women establish camp
- we don't know who builds the permanent homesite
- ★ Men look for food for the night:
  - termite mounds [tastes like raw egg]
  - pound out poisons [actually a compound that deprives fish of oxygen so they cannot breathe; they float to the top of the water] men beat the plants to release it
  - both men and women catch the fish paralyzed this way.
- ★ Other food-getting strategies:
  - men look for and procure honey from jungle bees as far as 140' high into the canopy
  - women go dam fishing and procure much of the vegetable matter ['fekay' fruits] as well
- ★ Redistribution of food-
  - eldest male gets first dibs on food with everything being basically even distributed

Why have they gone so far into the jungle? The Baka are foragers [hunter/gatherers], however, they are semi-sedentary—they go into the deep jungle only during certain times of year and gather what they need for the rest of the year [specifically "fekay" fruits for the oily seeds that are used for cooking]—but they still do not farm their own plots [so they're not horticulturalists]. However, remember that they do a bit of labor in exchange for goods for the villagers who live close by. This means that their economic world is changing and they are affected by the market system and trade goods.

★ Most of the Baka are under 5' tall - While this is not integral to being foragers in any way, I do want you to notice that in the film, we never saw any American/European/other African [except for the above mentioned villagers]. I think that this is important, because there is no way to get a sense of their smaller stature since they aren't compared with any other peoples in that way.

★ Education and Socialization: How are the young socialized?

- stories and songs around the fire [all oral traditions]

★ Family and kinship: What's going on?

- the Baka most probably practice exogamous marriage between camps - remember that they mentioned their small villages of 20+ people were in family groups - and remember that foragers need a wide range to get all they need from the land.