

Chapter 4. People as Nomadic Foragers: The Communal Wave

Chapter 4. G. Media

Check the more extended media selection in chapter 5 – The Agricultural Wave – for selection that bridge the Communal Wave.

The Gods Must be Crazy, 1980 written and directed by Jamie Uys.

The film is about the journey of a Ju/'hoansi bushman to the end of the earth to get rid of a Coca-Cola bottle. Xi and his band of San/Bushmen relatives are living well off the land in the Kalahari Desert. They are happy until one day, a glass Coke bottle is thrown out of an airplane and falls into their camp. Initially, this strange artifact seems to be another boon from the gods – Xi's people find many uses for it. But unlike anything that they have had before, there is only one bottle to go around.

Omo: A Journey to the Primaeval Age

2002, NR, 68 minutes

Filmmaker Pavol Barabás and a group of intrepid explorers set out to find the roots of humankind on the banks of the River Omo in Ethiopia, where the oldest remains of ancient humans were found. After facing treacherous rapids along their journey, the daring rafters encounter local populations living off the river. The film won the Silver Gentian for Best Film on Exploration at the Trento Film Festival, among other awards.

American Experience: Minik: The Lost Eskimo

2006 NR 60 minutes

This episode of the PBS series provides a provocative look at the collision of race, culture and the burgeoning science of anthropology as it recounts the life of Minik, a Greenland Inuit who came to America in 1897 courtesy of explorer Robert Peary. Considered an uncommon species at the time, 7-year-old Minik and four other Eskimos were taken to New York City for study at the American Museum of Natural History. 3 stars

Mbuti Pygmies: The Forest is Everything

5 minutes, photos, good.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QxpnWR9Srg>

Mysterious Mamberamo

2001 NR 67 minutes

Two friends embark on an extraordinary journey when they enter the jungles of Indonesia's Irian Jaya to begin the more than 600-mile trek documented here. Their goal: To reach the planet's last primitives -- a tribe untouched by the outside world. In the weeks-long expedition, the adventurers reveal the secrets of the virgin Mamberamo River and struggle with everything from hunger to malaria as they trudge forward to their goal. 3.6 stars

Pygmies of the Congo

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSr-TyJ0a3g>

Mbuti pygmies in the Ituri rainforest, Congo, filmed by Bob Citron in 1964. 5 minutes.