

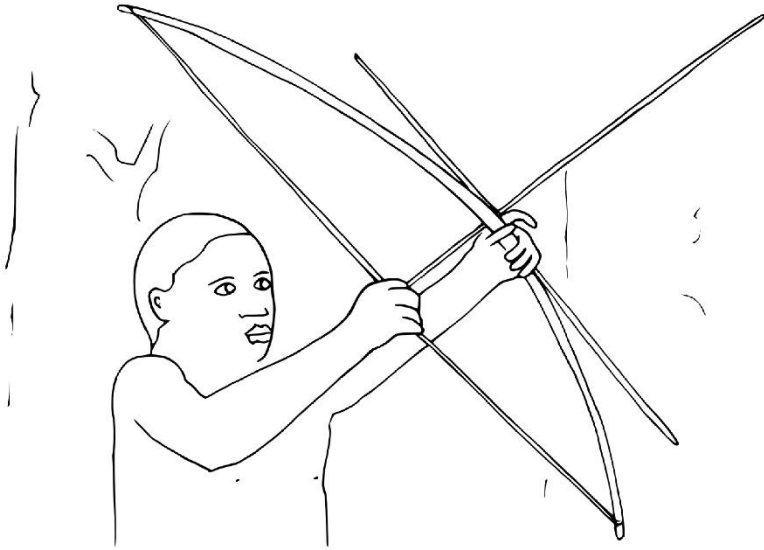


Fig.023 Illustration showing a native man shooting at a monkey. While everyone of his band can hunt and gather food, the territory of a band is often delimited by rivers or other natural boundaries. A band's territory is large and enables it to be nomadic within it but these boundaries are never crossed or only in an act of bravado towards neighbouring bands.

Territorialism Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives "are exceedingly conscious of their racial cohesion". They believe "they are the aborigines of the primeval forest" and see the blacks who invaded their territory as "foreigners". They even have "stories of their fierce wars" with these invaders. Despite this they are "split up by the multiplicity of languages spoken among them". In the forest they can be divided in the Aka of "the north-western area" and more to the south the Bambuti who "occupy a very extensive territory". On the east are the Efe whose territory extend "as far as the steppes" (Schebesta 1933). But while black people call home a "sun-scorched clearing" which they had cut for themselves and in which they "would live a few years at the most", for the natives "the whole forest" is home and "the village an isolated and foreign territory" to be regarded with "amusement, and occasionally with annoyance". In the end blacks are "compelled to respect" natives because of the bond between them and "the land of their ancestors". As much as the blacks are "afraid of the spirits of the forest" they are afraid of natives and "made them offerings" and "gave them an important part in the ceremonies for the village dead" since the village world in which the dead is buried will "soon belong once again to the forest" (Turnbull 1961).