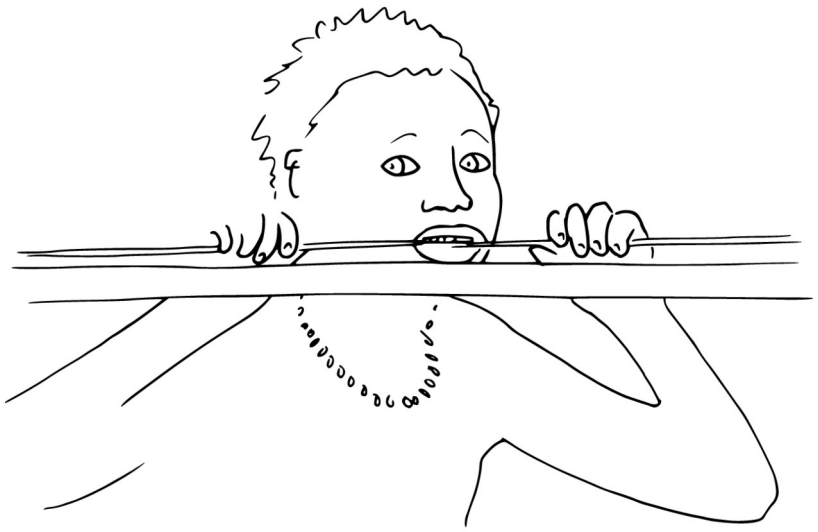


Fig.098 Illustration showing a native man working with his teeth on the string of his arrow. Knowing what the best material are for their tools, natives may go as far as bending trees or anyway altering the nature around to make sure to have the best possible result for their realization.

Control Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Natives love to eat "the cicada's grub" and at the end of the season as soon as the sun sets and the cicadas "begin their shrill cry" they make as much noise as they possibly can "banging on the soundingboard, striking the ground with bamboos, beating pieces of wood together or hammering on the sides of canoes, while at the same time shouting". Also natives believe that the "edible roots" of certain creepers and "yams" are "under the protection of a spirit" so they "quietly take off roots or tubers some way from the main stem and leave the rest, patting the earth down afterwards and covering the place with leaves". Leaving no "signs of the theft for the spirit to see" they enable these plants to continue flourishing "evidently helped by the pruning". Natives also have "taboos against the killing of birds and of boars in the breeding season" and in this sense they manage to preserve "their environments resources" (Mukerjee 2003). Similarly in several legends natives are taught about looking for yams and spread what is not eaten so that it can grow "into fresh plants". In additions natives are "aware of methods of poisoning or stupefying fish in pools by means of certain plants that they crush and place in the water". When preparing to build bows the selected tree are "bent while growing" so that the fibres of the wood get stronger (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).