

## Foraging Lifeways

Important ideas in my own words:		Questions I have or things I did not understand:
	<p>There is not much archeological evidence about the life of early foragers (people who live by hunting and gathering food). Because of this lack of evidence, scientists and historians study people in the modern world who still live as foragers to make guesses about what this life was like in the past. We can compare things we find from Paleolithic foragers, like tools or fire pits where they cooked their food, to similar things from more recent foraging groups. This comparison of evidence is called corroboration, and we can use to see if our best guesses about the past make sense.</p>	
	<p>Early foragers left very little behind; modern foragers also seem to use almost everything they hunt and gather, and they waste very little. Because of this, we think that early foraging people only took out of the environment what they needed and barely produced enough food to survive. The work was so hard that they probably never had a lot of extra resources, which is called a “surplus.” Because there was little extra food, and few extra resources, populations did not grow quickly, and large groups of people did not form to live together. The population was not dense, meaning that small numbers of people were spread out across large areas of land.</p>	
	<p>Because each group needed a large area to support itself, ancient foragers probably lived most of the time in small groups consisting of a few closely related people. Most of these groups must have been nomadic, moving around a lot, in order to take advantage of their large home territories. Links probably existed between neighboring groups. Almost all human communities encourage marriage away from one’s immediate family. Thus, foraging communities met periodically with their neighbors to swap gifts, stories, to dance together, and to resolve disputes. At such meetings females and males may have moved from group to group for marriage or adoption.</p>	