

Bribri Storyteller

- " his clan takes care of roots
- " Talamanca, Limón province, south by Panama = Puerto Viejo
- " reserve = 3500 acres shaped like an L in the mts.
- " 55,000 acres of reserve further inland
- " no \$ on reserves
- " more indigenous inland
- " 1976 - reserve opened to protect against lumber companies
- " reserve is good but not enough
- " Bribri want to be recognized as people
- " older people can't read or write
- " weather unpredictable - Caribbean side
- " paid in alcohol
- " Bribri = shy people
 - " get drunk and fight
 - " change names
- " family problems like everybody else
- " harvesting = split crops 50 : 50 between land owner and workers
- " Spanish say they're lazy but it's crop rotation
- " ceremonies for plant growth
- " solution for every problem
- " no nails in buildings
- " no pesticides
- " Sebu - like Jesus - came to earth and planted
 - " Sebumade tapir and vampire bats drank blood, hung over earth and pooped to make plants
 - " corn seeds became humans
- " people have spirit in alternate world, spirit causes sickness
- " poison plant = sacao
- " next land = after death - utopian
- " owners of plants and trees = deities
- " all living things have spirits
- " formerly warring factions, now peace through intermarriage
- " kings presided a century ago
- " clan tradition passed through warriors
- " king died from conspiracy to poison - involved indigenous people and banana company
- " babies smuggled across CR by missionaries for protection during slave trade
- " trying to get schools
- " Bribri = concrete language

Talamanca Region

- " means blue mountains
- " center of biodiversity
- " Mt. Chirripo - 12,000 ft. high
- " Sebu s Secrets
- " 1% of population indigenous - 30,000
- " tribes = Cabecars, Bribris, Guatusos, Curres, Guaymias, Bruncas
- " Cabecars and Bribris - biggest
- " Guatusos - Arenal
- " Curres - South Pacific
- " Guaymias - South Caribbean
- " Bruncas - South Pacific

Bribri Community

- " harvesting depends on moon
- " harvest = ½ moon
- " roof can last 12-14 years
- " hair stays black - only gets gray at 90
 - " use sap of cacao bean
 - " use lemon juice for dandruff (mandarin lemon - orange inside)
- " house built with vines to allow for earthquakes
- " feet have to be on ground to be in touch with Sebu
- " smoke keeps bugs away
- " they are all corn seeds
- " armadillo, tiger, vulture, snake
- " every piece of vine tied is star
- " this house can last 30 years
- " against earthquakes
- " when it falls, it s like the end of the universe
- " communicate with other indigenous communities
- " medicine man goes upriver to get a magic rock
- " he polishes it and it talks to him - tells hi who should be the next medicine man
- " medicine man = awá = shaman
- " indians think we are like leaf-cutter ants - destroying everything
- " indians think only they are made from corn - we are made from dust in the east
- " most significant animal - tapir
 - " Sebu created the earth with tapir blood
 - " if they kill and eat it, they will get sick
- " when they kill an important animal, they conduct a ceremony to guide the soul to the next level
- " when crossing mt., some couldn t come back - now a different ethnic group
- " 70-75 life expectancy

" 78 year old woman - better shape than any one of us