

## Nature Video Transcript

Kunta Kinte story the theme of nature

00:04

nature is a strong theme that is

00:06

continuously utilized throughout the

00:09

route series nature is a powerful

00:11

resource that is used to make white

00:13

people more powerful and help Africans

00:15

throughout their time of slavery also

00:18

nature is compared with slaves and

00:20

contrast African life to American life

00:22

because of nature many slaves have lost

00:25

sight of where they naturally came from

00:27

and how unnatural American life is

00:34

African community versus American

00:37

community in the root series the African

00:39

communities and lands were very

00:41

different and the African community it

00:43

seemed everyone was family

00:44

one example that would show this is when

00:46

every boy in Hoosick and age tribe was

00:49

sent to become a man to become men

00:51

together has it they were brothers

00:53

another example would be when Kunta was

00:55

sent to catch the chicken and he bumped  
00:57  
into another tribe instead of being held  
00:59  
captive  
01:00  
they laughed it off and made sure he was  
01:01  
okay and let him free also a prime  
01:04  
example of how much they care and value  
01:07  
not only their lives but others as well  
01:09  
is when they were teaching the boys to  
01:12  
become men and the instructors taught  
01:14  
them to surround their enemies from the  
01:15  
south east and west so they would have  
01:18  
options ago and no one gets hurt because  
01:20  
a man dicas warrior man dica warrior's  
01:23  
purpose is to protect not to kill their  
01:26  
value their community values reflect on  
01:28  
their land that's thriving with many  
01:30  
resources green grass healthy trees and  
01:33  
wildlife everywhere in the American  
01:36  
community everyone seems greedy and only  
01:38  
cares about himself an example would be  
01:40  
caring for the slaves because the slaves  
01:42  
all lived in shed with no floors no  
01:44  
shoes and maybe a bed while the other  
01:46

slave owners sat and their big  
01:48  
comfortable houses plenty of shoes and  
01:50  
maybe even a few carpets another example  
01:53  
would be when master Reynolds brother  
01:54  
began a relationship with his wife and  
01:56  
later brought out his farm leaving  
01:58  
master Reynolds with nothing you can see  
02:00  
how their value reflect on their land  
02:03  
because there is little to no grass  
02:05  
the woods are outgrown and dangerous  
02:06  
almost no wildlife and all of their  
02:08  
resources are man-made in conclusion you  
02:12  
can see there is a big difference  
02:13  
between American and African communities  
02:15  
in the series of roots some of the  
02:18  
African family like communities  
02:19  
continued with Africans American slaves  
02:22  
because they were still caring for each  
02:24  
other when they never knew their  
02:27  
ancestors or freedom while there wasn't  
02:29  
one white man who tried to help the  
02:31  
slaves or each other break free from the  
02:33  
dirt from this terrible activity  
02:37

nature as a resource throughout the  
02:39  
miniseries Roots  
02:40  
there were many occasions that African  
02:43  
Americans would use their surroundings  
02:44  
surroundings being nature has a resource  
02:47  
to stay alive and to help them get out  
02:49  
of a situation for example when Kunta  
02:51  
Kinte was working in the field he found  
02:53  
a semi sharp rock now I believe any  
02:56  
other person would have just thought of  
02:58  
it has a rock and nothing else but Kunta  
03:00  
Kunta saw it was an opportunity he hid  
03:03  
the rock in his pants and later  
03:05  
sharpened it so he could break out of  
03:06  
the chains on his legs even though this  
03:09  
process did take him days to complete he  
03:11  
still managed to break the chains just  
03:13  
using a rock this is only one of the  
03:16  
many great examples of African Americans  
03:18  
using the nature around them as  
03:20  
resources when Kunta and Kinte was back  
03:23  
and Kunta Kinte was back in Africa his  
03:27  
tribe and himself used nature for  
03:29

everyday living their houses were made  
03:31  
from wood out of the trees and straw  
03:33  
they would wash their clothes and the  
03:35  
river provided to them they would make  
03:37  
their clothes out of skins of animals  
03:39  
and they would take care they took care  
03:42  
of and one particular scene one of the  
03:45  
goats was killed and could say  
03:46  
immediately had to skin the animal after  
03:48  
they used the rest of the goat food the  
03:51  
goat for food their tribe also makes  
03:53  
weapons to protect themselves like  
03:55  
Spears and slingshots made out of wood  
03:57  
also poisonous darts lastly the mineka  
04:00  
tribe makes various types of instruments  
04:02  
out of the nature around them drums  
04:05  
tambourine shakers et Cie Kunta Kinte  
04:09  
was also was going to make his brother a  
04:12  
drum before he was captured  
04:17  
slaves as animals in the first episode  
04:19  
of roots were introduced to Kunta Kinte  
04:22  
who at the time was a boy living in the  
04:24  
small village located in Gambia West  
04:26

Africa in Gambia animals were often used

04:29

to teach positive life lessons to Kunta

04:32

s Kunta grows into a man his

04:34

responsibility is to look after the

04:36

goats and to make sure they don't wander

04:38

away from the village while talking to

04:41

his friend a tiger gets ahold of the

04:43

she-goat and attacks her Kunta uses his

04:46

slingshot to scare off the tiger however

04:49

it's too late the tiger had already

04:51

killed two goat and now Kunta has the

04:53

skin to go and take it home to his

04:55

father when he gives the skin to his

04:58

father and explains to him what took

05:00

place Koontz's father begins to tell him

05:02

a story about his childhood and how a

05:04

similar incident happened to him as well

05:07

Koontz's father shows him a tiger tooth

05:10

that he wears around his neck as a

05:12

reminder to not let the same incident

05:14

occur again he gives skin to the goat

05:16

skin and tells him to always remember

05:18

that day the tiger tooth and the goats

05:20

can serve as life lessons about not  
05:23  
letting your guard down after symbolic  
05:26  
in Africa and were allowed to roam  
05:28  
freely as nature intended in the second  
05:32  
episode of roots is where we see nature  
05:35  
become unbalanced slavery is introduced  
05:37  
and blacks no longer were treated as  
05:39  
human beings instead they were captured  
05:42  
shackle caged and put on display like  
05:45  
animals in a zoo it was if it was as if  
05:49  
they were a new breed of undiscovered  
05:50  
animals nature was in Reverse in America  
05:54  
when being auctioned off we hear Kunta  
05:57  
being described as strong as an ox can  
06:00  
carry things like a mule and why like a  
06:02  
monkey whites were or were allowed to  
06:05  
inspect the captured blacks for diseases  
06:07  
and fleas before bidding for them Kunta  
06:11  
was even branded like a coward horse he  
06:14  
no longer had any rights or respect he  
06:17  
was sold and now belongs to mr. Reynolds  
06:19  
who like many slave owners just saw him  
06:21  
as property and not as a human the  
06:24

Reynolds farm both house animals and  
06:27  
slaves however the animals were treated  
06:30  
better than the  
06:30  
please the horses had shoes the slaves  
06:33  
did not the animals were fed and given  
06:35  
water while the slaves got whatever food  
06:38  
was left over the animals roamed freely  
06:40  
without any consequences however this  
06:43  
was not the case for blacks Kunta wore  
06:45  
shackles on his feet so he could he  
06:47  
wouldn't run fiddler had to be given  
06:49  
permission in order to leave the farm  
06:51  
fiddler was born into slavery and it was  
06:54  
natural for him to be treated as an  
06:55  
animal Kunta however knew what it was  
06:58  
what it was what being treated as a  
07:01  
human being was in the third episode of  
07:06  
roots Kunta runs away to find Fanta and  
07:10  
his heart is hunted down like an animal  
07:12  
he was being hunted because he was  
07:14  
looked upon as a good work animal and he  
07:17  
was a property of mr. Reynolds he had no  
07:19  
entitlement to human rights he was a  
07:22



slave and could be nothing more he's  
07:24  
running away amid that mr. Reynolds  
07:26  
would have lost his investment and he  
07:28  
had to have Kunta back once Kunta was  
07:31  
recaptured the slave catchers decided  
07:34  
that they must teach him a lesson they  
07:36  
chopped off his toes with no empathy for  
07:38  
Kunta as a human being they treat him  
07:41  
like a runaway animal recaptured and  
07:42  
taught the lesson to never run away  
07:44  
again as he saved as a slave Kunta had  
07:48  
to deal with being treated as sometimes  
07:51  
less than an animal and now he has to  
07:53  
deal with losing his tools as punishment  
07:55  
blacks were unjustly but instead they  
07:58  
were the new breed of work animals the  
08:03  
manipulation of nature slave owners and  
08:05  
roots and throughout the time of slavery  
08:07  
would use utilize landscaping to prevent  
08:10  
slaves from escaping although many of  
08:12  
the slaves don't realize it these white  
08:14  
men have strategic strategically placed  
08:16  
them in a foreign country where they  
08:18

have no chance of escaping due to the  
08:20  
location of the plantation and the  
08:22  
natural color of their skin right off  
08:24  
the bat slaves are targeted because  
08:26  
their skin color is brown unlike the  
08:28  
rest of the people living in North  
08:29  
America that are wait at the beginning  
08:31  
of roots Kunta and all the other slaves  
08:33  
are forced onto a boat instantly the  
08:35  
slaves are estranged chopped away at sea  
08:38  
and have no chance of escaping unless  
08:40  
they want to take a chance of drowning  
08:41  
when Kunta Kinte is brought to the  
08:43  
plantation we can see how the  
08:45  
landscaping can easily Ave worried slave  
08:48  
owner behind the plantation we can see  
08:50  
high mountains tall rough grass huge  
08:52  
trees and thick bushes a slave would  
08:55  
have a difficult time running through  
08:57  
these treacherous fields for months  
08:59  
attempting to escape to attempting to  
09:02  
escape to the North or Africa we noticed  
09:06  
this when Kunta tries to escape running  
09:08

through hard dirt and a thick forest  
09:10  
with no shoes and very little clothing  
09:11  
Kunta doesn't make it far before he is  
09:14  
caught and whipped into obedience on the  
09:16  
other side of the plantation we see a  
09:18  
good length of open land  
09:20  
this helps slave owners to locate slaves  
09:22  
easily using dogs to track him down and  
09:24  
attack them and horses for slave hunters  
09:27  
to travel on and trample them even if  
09:29  
slaves were able to escape they would  
09:31  
never be able to return to Africa  
09:32  
because a barrier between North America  
09:35  
and their home is miles of ocean that  
09:37  
they'd never be able to travel caused  
09:39  
and survive a second way slave owners  
09:42  
are able to control slaves is by forcing  
09:45  
them to interact with nature's will  
09:47  
interact with nature and ways that are  
09:49  
cruel we first see this when Kunta many  
09:51  
of the other slaves are forced to work  
09:53  
on plantations when Kunta first begins  
09:56  
working on the plantation we see that  
09:57

slaves are regulated while picking  
09:59  
cotton and if they grow tired they were  
10:01  
yelled at beaten or even wet until they  
10:03  
continued working not only the slaves  
10:06  
picked cotton but they also had to carry  
10:07  
buckets of fruit trees and branches  
10:09  
Slaves had to cut bushes clean clothes  
10:12  
using a well of water cut grass using a  
10:15  
small tool and many other treacherous  
10:17  
tasks that they didn't have a choice but  
10:18  
to do slaves had to load heavy cargo and  
10:22  
even a very old tired slave like fiddler  
10:24  
had to bend on to his weak knees and  
10:26  
pick vegetables and fruits we also see  
10:28  
how slaves are forced to live in  
10:30  
conditions that are unethical and cruel  
10:32  
slave tapped asleep and cold barns on a  
10:34  
bed made of hay or on the cold floor  
10:36  
with hay on it we also don't see slaves  
10:38  
eating much food occasionally we see  
10:41  
pendler giving Kunta Kinte food or  
10:43  
slaves eating some bland food but we  
10:45  
never see slaves eating food that they  
10:47

have grown and picked themselves save  
10:49  
owners have placed these slaves in a  
10:51  
dilemma where they have to pick fresh  
10:53  
plants and cook food for  
10:54  
their owners yet they are allowed to  
10:56  
join any of the food only the left over  
10:58  
a measly Crump's these forest-  
11:01  
interactions play a major role in  
11:02  
manipulating slaves by forcing these  
11:07  
sales to live in terrible conditions and  
11:09  
continuously work owners have made it  
11:11  
easy to make slaves obedient slave  
11:13  
owners have made the small winners in  
11:15  
their life huge privileges for slaves  
11:17  
instead of sleeping at a barn on a on  
11:19  
the cold floors slaves that work well  
11:22  
and had no intention of escaping we're  
11:24  
living in a decent comfortable cabin for  
11:26  
its age like feta first slaves like  
11:29  
fiddler and bowed this was an easy  
11:30  
manipulation since at one point the two  
11:33  
are sleeping on hate in a barn but have  
11:36  
been privileged with a better living  
11:37

environment we see how broken  
11:39  
hard-working obedient slaves have worked  
11:41  
hard to reach the level of comfort that  
11:43  
they have achieved fiddler even explains  
11:45  
that he would never attempt to escape  
11:46  
and lose all that he has earned  
11:48  
he doesn't do outside work he can drink  
11:51  
some alcohol eat some warm decent food  
11:53  
and sleep in a warm cabin  
11:54  
unlike other disobedient slaves viler  
11:57  
knows that if he disobeys his disobeys  
11:59  
his owner he'll be forced to sleep in a  
12:01  
cold barn like Kunsan work on the fields  
12:04  
like the other underprivileged slaves  
12:05  
all his hard work will go to waste this  
12:07  
is a prime example of an owner  
12:09  
completely manipulating nature and  
12:11  
unnatural things to brainwash slaves we  
12:13  
also see how obedient slaves like Bo can  
12:15  
live just as good as away person if  
12:17  
they're blindly loyal to their owners  
12:19  
after having her husband and children  
12:21  
taken from her bill has been completely  
12:23

broken and lived to help her master and  
12:25  
has no intention of escaping on the  
12:27  
other hand we have Kunta Kinte Wiseman  
12:30  
caught trying to escape for a second  
12:31  
time living in a decent cabin on a bed  
12:34  
made of hay with a fireplace now  
12:36  
although both of these slaves have been  
12:38  
broken we see how the slave that would  
12:40  
never try to escape Belle is living so  
12:42  
much better than the all the other  
12:44  
slaves but is living in her own house  
12:46  
with a stove dining room table bedroom  
12:48  
and many other items are great pledges  
12:50  
to many other slaves slave owners have  
12:53  
forced slaves to live in a natural on  
12:56  
kind of environment and have given them  
12:58  
unnatural luxury items as a form of  
13:00  
privilege and as a way of preventing  
13:02  
slaves from wanting to escape  
13:06  
after viewing routes we can see how the  
13:08  
theme of nature strongly affects the  
13:10  
life of Africans and Americans nature  
13:12  
can be used as a positive library  
13:14

resource to help Africans live in their  
13:16  
own environment and as a tool to help  
13:18  
them escape from a trip from their  
13:20  
trapped  
13:21  
lives as a slave and contrast nature as  
13:23  
a tool used by white people to estranged  
13:26  
Africans and going to gain control of  
13:28  
them this strong contrast and the use of  
13:31  
nature shows how white men need slaves  
13:33  
in nature to gain power and riches while  
13:35  
Africans use nature as a source of for  
13:37  
survival