

Fear of the Stew Pot

Consider the following :

Three anthropologists want to cross a river in a distant land and ask three nearby, clearly hungry, villagers for aid, offering them a nice dinner in return for their help. The three villagers agree readily, note in passing that they are cannibals (perhaps they are just making fun of the anthropologists, who knows?), and say that they would be delighted to have the anthropologists for dinner. The villagers lead the alarmed anthropologists to a canoe that can carry at most two people across the river at a time. The anthropologists are, naturally, wary, and will not allow there to be more villagers on either bank of the river than there are anthropologists on that bank. (If the villagers outnumber the anthropologists on either bank, the anthropologists fear that the villagers might have an early dinner.) How can the anthropologists get across the river without discovering anything more about the villager's diet?

What should the anthropologists do to avoid facing their fears?

Your advice:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____