

Social Studies

Topic 16: Traditional Crafts in Rwanda

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1. Choose the correct words from the list to fill the gaps in the text about the **history of crafts in Rwanda**.

bracelets	decoration	figures	jewellery
materials	pottery	silver	wood

People throughout Rwanda have been making craft objects for hundreds of years. They used raw

a) _____ that came from Rwanda or neighbouring countries. Traditionally, most objects were made to be used in everyday life. Some were also used for

b) _____ and ceremonial occasions.

In Southern Province iron tools and pieces of c) _____ have been found. Some of these tools and pots can be seen in the National Museum in Huye. Stone Age people also made

d) _____ such as rings e) _____ and necklaces. First they used stones with holes in them. Later people used metals such as bronze, iron, f) _____, and gold, which were easier to shape.

The earliest craft workers also used g) _____ to make practical things like spears, posts, and planks for buildings, and later for beds, chairs, and cupboards. Over many years these developed, again, from being practical to being beautiful as well. During this time, craft workers started to make wooden h) _____ of animals and people too.

2. Put the following **stages in the production of pottery** in the right sequence.

1. After the pottery has dried, it is ready to be fired.
2. Burning grasses are put on top of it.
3. Then they use their hands to shape it into cooking pots, lamps, or animal forms.
4. After the pottery has been fired, it is polished.
5. Then they put it out to dry in the sun.
6. For firing, it is put into a small hole in the ground.
7. First the potters use their feet to soften the clay.
8. Then it is covered with earth.

Write your answers here:

a)	b)	c)	d)	e)	f)	g)	h)

3. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences about **basket-making in Rwanda today**.

a)	in the rebuilding of Rwanda.	it was clear that	in the genocide	a significant role	women must play	Because so many men died
Correct sentence:						
b)	traditional baskets	opportunities	economic	for their families.	Women make exquisite	and also create
Correct sentence:						
c)	the baskets	a thousand years.	has been practised	The women weave	for almost	using a technique that
Correct sentence:						
d)	of the sisal plant,	a member	The baskets	are made from	of the agave family.	the long leaves
Correct sentence:						
e)	by men	do the weaving.	of sisal leaves	The harvesting	is usually done	while the women
Correct sentence:						
f)	using commercial dyes	Finished sisal strands	as well as natural dyes	from traditional plant-based pigments.	are used in their natural	white colour or can be dyed
Correct sentence:						
g)	a week.	a twelve-inch diameter bowl	It can take	several thousand stitches	in the course of	to make
Correct sentence:						

4. Match the pictures with the **stages in basket-weaving**. Then match the sentences with the pictures and put them in the right order.

<p>a)</p> 	<p>b)</p> 
<p>c)</p> 	<p>d)</p> 

1. The clean sisal threads are hung in the shade to dry.
2. The weaver brings the finished basket to the collection centre.
3. Sisal threads are extracted from the leaves.
4. The finest baskets are selected to be sold in shops in cities in Europe and the USA.
5. After about a week of stitching, the weaver finishes the basket.
6. The threads are continually washed until they are clean and bright.
7. Sweetgrass is wrapped in sisal and coiled tight.
8. The basket is carefully inspected for quality and beauty.
9. Men collect the sisal leaves and bring them to market.
10. The weaver stitches the sisal to the coil of sweetgrass.
11. The weavers select the leaves carefully.

Stages:	Harvesting the sisal leaves	Extracting the sisal threads	Weaving the basket	Presenting the finished basket
Pictures:				
Sentences:				

5. Find the words about **traditional crafts** in the word search.

<p>S L T Y S E S X L G H A C N S F</p> <p>N T E G S E M X N N E F S R E A</p> <p>P E E E D T R M N O E S T M G E</p> <p>E E G S C S N R F F G M C N O W</p> <p>E A Y C J N I A H N U D D S E M</p> <p>S J X R R S H L A V E R F H R M</p> <p>M L E A T S T A V Q N O N P I S</p> <p>N P S F F X H I N E C K L A C E</p> <p>I T I T C U S O T D R S I T C A</p> <p>M L I L L N R A F C L M N T F E</p> <p>Y Q O E G M R N S R H E E E A D</p> <p>W O O D W O R K I N G L S R R A</p> <p>T B R A C E L E T T S T B N C M</p> <p>J E W E L L E R Y E U T N M L B</p> <p>E E D P E N E Q Z I S R E R A U</p> <p>V T F T T T R L P O T T E R Y R</p>	<p>bracelet</p> <p>clay</p> <p>craft</p> <p>decorate</p> <p>handle</p> <p>furnace</p> <p>furniture</p> <p>jewellery</p> <p>necklace</p> <p>pattern</p> <p>pottery</p> <p>silver</p> <p>smelt</p> <p>stitch</p> <p>tool</p> <p>woodworking</p>
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6. Make sentences about **Imigongo paintings** by matching the beginnings and endings. Write your answers in the grid below.

a)	Imigongo is an art form popular in Rwanda, which emerged	1	designs in different natural colours such as black, white, and red.
b)	Prince Kakira, the son of the King of Gisaka,	2	at the end of the 18th century in Kibungo province in South-East Rwanda.
c)	The Imigongo paintings are created from cow	3	dung applied to wooden plates.
d)	They often include spiral and geometric	4	of burned banana peel, mixed with other plant products.
e)	The red colour is made from natural	5	created the style two hundred years ago.
f)	The black colour is based on the ashes	6	soil and the white colour from kaolin.

Write your answers here:

a)	b)	c)	d)	e)	f)

7. Read the text about **problems affecting the craft industry and their solutions** to find two-word phrases that match the definitions. Write your answers in the space provided.

Craft production was once a very important part of Rwanda's traditional economy. However, it has declined since the genocide. There are several reasons for this:

- Craft workshops were destroyed.
- Raw materials were destroyed or not looked after.
- Craft workers were killed or they left the country.
- Young people no longer know the traditional skills.

Craft production has also declined because of competition with modern industry. People used to make or buy locally made household objects. Now they often prefer to buy cheaper overseas imports. One example of this is plastic bowls instead of bowls made from pottery.

The government of Rwanda, as well as non-governmental organisations, is working to preserve the traditional crafts of Rwanda. For example, there are pottery projects where potters improve pottery designs and find new product outlets. Market stalls have been set up and the potters have been taught business skills to make sure they can manage successful businesses.

Write your answers here:

a)	things that are bought from abroad	
b)	techniques and knowledge used in business	
c)	a small shop used to sell things at a market	
d)	unprocessed natural products used to make craft objects	
e)	things needed in the house	
f)	techniques that people used in the past	
g)	the pattern and appearance of pots	

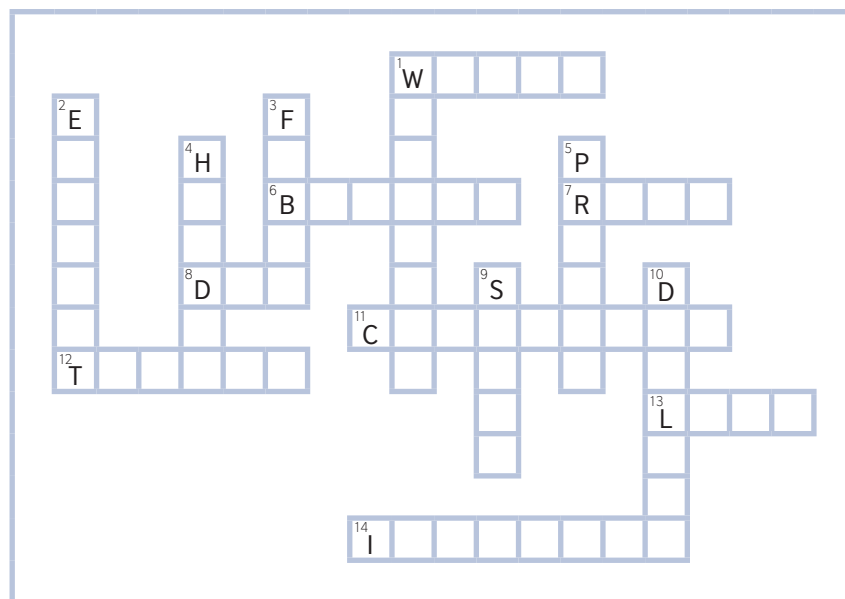
8. Complete the crossword by answering the following questions. All the correct answers are words about **traditional crafts**.

Across

1. To make cloth by crossing long threads over and under each other.
6. A container for carrying or keeping things in, made from wire or wood woven together.
7. A piece of jewellery in the form of a circle that you wear on a finger.
8. A substance used for changing the colour of something.
11. Something used for storing or holding things.
12. A long thin fibre used for sewing or weaving.
13. A flat thin green part of a tree or plant.
14. To make something become larger in amount or number.

Down

1. A room or building where things are made using tools and machines.
2. To remove a substance from another substance.
3. A long thin piece of a natural or artificial substance, similar to a thread in shape.
4. The part of an object that you hold in your hand when you use it.
5. Money that you receive on a business transaction after expenses have been paid.
9. A small piece of rock.
10. To become less or worse.



Glossary

agave	/ə'geɪv/ noun [C] a plant with leaves with sharp points and flowers on a long stem.
ashes	/ˈæʃɪz/ noun [plural] the grey powder that remains after something has burned: <i>Ashes of burnt banana peel.</i>
basket	/ˈbɑːskɪt/ noun [C] a container for carrying or keeping things in, made from thin pieces of plastic, wire, or wood woven together, and sometimes with a handle: <i>a picnic basket. A laundry basket.</i>
bench	/bentʃ/ noun [C] a long table used by someone working with tools.
bowl	/bəʊl/ noun [C] a round container used for eating, serving, or preparing food: <i>a bowl of fruit/soup.</i>
bracelet	/ˈbreɪslət/ noun [C] a piece of jewellery that you wear around your wrist.
beer	/biə(r)/ noun [U] a yellow or brown alcoholic drink made from malt and hops. <i>I don't drink beer, only spirits. A pint of beer.</i>
brew	/bruː/ verb [I/T] to make beer.
bronze	/brɒnz/ noun [U] a hard brown metal used for making statues and objects for decoration. It is made by mixing copper and tin.
carving	/ˈkɑː(r)vɪŋ/ noun [C] an object, pattern, or piece of writing made by cutting stone or wood: <i>a beautiful wooden carving.</i>
ceremonial	/ˌserə'məʊniəl/ adj a ceremonial event follows a formal or traditional pattern: <i>This drum is only used on ceremonial occasions.</i>
chair	/tʃeə(r)/ noun [C] a piece of furniture for one person to sit on, with a back, legs, and sometimes two arms: <i>I had to sit on a hard wooden chair all day.</i>
clay	/kleɪ/ noun [U] a type of heavy wet soil that becomes hard when it is baked in a kiln, used for making cups, plates, and other objects.
coil	/kɔɪl/ verb [T] to wind something long and thin into a shape like a series of rings: <i>Heavy gold chains were coiled around her long neck.</i>
container	/kən'teɪnə(r)/ noun [C] something used for storing or holding things, for example a box, bottle, or bowl.
cooperative	/kəʊ'p(ə)rətɪv/ noun [C] a business or other organization owned by the people who work in it who also share the profits: <i>agricultural/fishing cooperatives.</i>
cow dung	/kaʊ dʌŋ/ noun [U] waste from the body of a cow.
craft	/krɑːft/ noun [C] a traditional skill of making things by hand, for example furniture or jewellery: <i>the promotion of traditional Egyptian arts and crafts. Skilled craft workers.</i>
craftsman	/ˈkrɑːftsmən/ noun [C] a man who makes beautiful or practical objects using his hands
cupboard	/ˈkʌbə(r)d/ noun [C] a tall piece of furniture, usually attached to a wall and used for storing things, with shelves inside and one or two doors at the front: <i>a kitchen cupboard. the cupboard door.</i>
decline	/di'klaɪn/ verb [I] to become less or worse: <i>In many cases living standards are declining. Share prices declined sharply last week. Production declined.</i>
decorated	/ˈdekəreɪtɪd/ adj provided with something intended to increase its beauty or distinction: <i>decorated pots.</i>
decoration	/ˌdekə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C/U] something nice that you put on or in something else to make it look more attractive: <i>Dad was putting up the Christmas decorations.</i>

design	/di'zain/ noun [C] a pattern that decorates something: <i>simple geometric designs pottery designs.</i>
die out	/daɪ aʊt/ phrasal verb [I] to become weaker or less common and then disappear completely: <i>The tribe's traditional way of life is dying out.</i>
dry	/draɪ/ verb [I] to become dry: <i>I usually let my hair dry naturally.</i>
dye	/daɪ/ noun [C/U] a substance used for changing the colour of something such as clothing or your hair.
dye	/daɪ/ verb [T] to change the colour of something such as clothing or your hair using dye.
earth	/ɜ:(r)θ/ noun [U] the substance in which plants grow that covers most of the land: <i>a pile of damp earth. The floor was bare earth.</i>
emerge	/ɪ'mɜ:(r)dʒ/ verb [I] to appear, or to become recognized: <i>No new leader has emerged to take his place.</i>
exquisite	/ɪk'skwɪzɪt/ adj extremely beautiful and delicate: <i>an exquisite hand-painted vase from China.</i>
extract	/ɪk'strækt/ verb [T] to remove a substance from another substance: <i>The pulp was crushed to extract the juice. A method of extracting sulphur from copper ore.</i>
fair trade	/feə(r) treɪd/ noun [U] the principle of charging a price for goods that does not put producers in developing countries at a disadvantage.
fibre	/f'aɪbə(r)/ noun [C] a long thin piece of a natural or artificial substance, similar to a thread or hair in shape: <i>Coir is a strong material made from coconut fibres.</i>
fire	/f'aɪə(r)/ verb [T] to bake clay at a very high temperature so that it becomes very hard.
furnace	/fɜ:(r)nɪs/ noun [C] a large enclosed container in which you burn fuel, used for heating a building or for an industrial process such as making metal liquid.
furniture	/fɜ:(r)nɪtʃə(r)/ noun [U] the chairs, tables, beds, cupboards etc that someone puts in a room or house so that they can live in it.
gold	/gəʊld/ noun [U] a valuable yellow metal used for making jewellery: <i>The picture frames were made of solid gold.</i>
grass	/grɑ:s/ noun [C/U] a very common plant with thin green leaves that covers the ground. <i>We should cut the grass before it starts raining.</i>
greetings card	/gri:tɪŋz kɑ:(r)d/ noun [C] <i>Greetings card:</i> a card that you give or send to someone on a special occasion such as their birthday.
hand	/hænd/ phrase by hand using your hands rather than a machine.
handle	/hænd(ə)l/ noun [C] the part of an object that you hold in your hand when you use it: <i>knives with plastic handles.</i>
harvest	/hɑ:(r)vɪst/ verb [I/T] to collect a crop from the fields: <i>Winter wheat is planted in the autumn and harvested in early summer. Farmers harvesting their crops.</i>
hole	/həʊl/ noun [C] a space in the surface of something that goes partly or completely through it: <i>All my socks have holes in them. Rain poured through a gaping hole in the roof.</i>
income	/ɪn'kʌm/ noun [C/I] money that someone gets from working or from investing money: <i>Most of the villagers rely on farming for income. Investment/rental income.</i>
increase	/ɪn'kri:s/ verb [T] to make something become larger in amount or number: <i>We have managed to increase the number of patients treated.</i>
iron	/aɪə(r)n/ noun [U] a hard heavy metal that is a common element. It is used for making steel and is also used in many types of machine and building structures.

jewellery	/ˈdʒuːəlri/ noun [U] objects that you wear as decoration. Types of jewellery include rings, which you wear on your finger, bracelets, which you wear on your wrist, and necklaces, which you wear around your neck: <i>She's got some lovely pieces of jewellery.</i>
kaolin	/ˈkeɪəlɪn/ noun [U] a white clay used for preparing some medicines and for making porcelain.
kiln	/kɪln/ noun [C] a type of oven that is used for baking clay and bricks to make them hard.
lamp	/læmp/ noun [C] an electric light, especially a small one, that stands on a table or desk: <i>Use a desk lamp when you study.</i>
leaf	/liːf/ noun [C] a flat thin green part of a tree or plant that grows on a branch or stem: <i>A light breeze stirred the leaves of the tall oak tree outside her window. Falling leaves</i>
necklace	/ˈnekləs/ noun [C] a piece of jewellery that hangs round your neck: <i>a pearl/gold necklace.</i>
ochre	/ˈɒʃkə(r)/ noun [U] a brown-yellow colour.
outlet	/ˈaʊt let/ noun [C] a shop or place where a particular product is sold: <i>Most of their sales are through traditional retail outlets.</i>
painting	/ˈpeɪntɪŋ/ noun [C] a picture made using paint: <i>a painting by Picasso.</i>
pattern	/ˈpætə(r)n/ noun [C] a set of lines, shapes, or colours that are repeated regularly: <i>The carpet was old, with strange patterns on it.</i>
peel	/piːl/ noun [U] the skin of a fruit or vegetable: <i>banana peel.</i>
pigment	/ˈpɪgmənt/ noun [C/U] a natural substance that gives colour to something such as paint, skin, or hair.
plank	/plæŋk/ noun [C] a long narrow piece of wood used for making structures such as floors.
polish	/ˈpɒlɪʃ/ verb [T] to rub the surface of something in order to make it shine: <i>They spend most of their time polishing shoes.</i>
post	/pəʊst/noun [C] a strong thick pole made of wood or metal that is put upright in the ground.
pot	/pɒt/ noun [C] a deep round metal container used for cooking food in on a cooker: <i>a set of pots and pans.</i>
potter	/ˈpɒtə(r)/ noun [C] someone who makes dishes or other objects out of clay.
pottery	/ˈpɒtəri/ noun [U] objects such as plates and cups that are made out of clay and baked in an oven so that they become hard: <i>hand-painted pottery.</i>
profit	/ˈprɒfɪt/ noun [C/U] money that you make by selling something or from your business, especially the money that remains after you have paid all your business costs. <i>Profits rose 31% to £144 million. Investors have made a 14% profit in just 3 months.</i>
quality	/ˈkwɒləti/ noun [C/U] the quality of something is how good or bad it is: <i>The food is of the highest quality. Poor-quality workmanship.</i>
raw materials	/rɔː məˈtɪəriəlz/noun [plural] substances such as coal or iron that are in their natural state before being changed by chemical processes.
ring	/rɪŋ/ noun [C] a piece of jewellery in the form of a circle that you wear on a finger: <i>a gold ring. She had a ring on every finger.</i>
sale	/seɪl/ noun the total number of things that a company sells within a particular period of time, or the money that it earns by selling things: <i>We hope to increase sales this year to £50 million.</i>

sell	/sel/ verb [T] to exchange something for money: <i>They've already sold over two million copies of their record.</i>
shape	/ʃeɪp/ verb [T] to form something into a particular shape: <i>The blacksmith shapes farm tools on his anvil.</i>
shortage	/ˈʃɔː(r)tɪdʒ/ noun [C/U] a lack of something that you need or want: <i>The villagers are facing serious food and fuel shortages.</i>
silver	/ˈsɪlvə(r)/ noun [U] a light grey bright metal used for making jewellery, coins, silverware, etc: <i>mining for gold and silver.</i>
sisal	/ˈsaɪs(ə)/ noun [U] a white fibre used for making rope and rugs (=small carpets). It comes from a Mexican plant.
skill	/skɪl/ noun [C/U] the ability to do something well, usually as a result of experience and training: <i>I admired the skill and dedication of the nursing staff. computer skills</i>
skilled	/skɪld/ adj having the ability and experience to do something well: <i>a skilled craftsman.</i>
smelt	/smelt/ verb [T] to heat rock in order to remove the metal that it contains.
soften	/ˈsɒf(ə)n/ verb [I/T] to become softer, or to make something softer: <i>Simmer gently until the apple has softened. If the mixture is too hard you will need to soften it.</i>
soil	/sɔɪl/ noun [C/U] the substance on the surface of the earth in which plants grow: <i>The dry rocky soil is suitable for planting vines.</i>
stitch	/stɪtʃ/ noun [C] a short piece of thread that you can see on cloth when it has been sewn: <i>I put a couple of stitches in just to hold the ends together.</i>
stitch	/stɪtʃ/ verb [T] to join pieces of cloth together by sewing them: <i>They stitched red and blue ribbons onto their hats.</i>
spear	/spiə(r)/ noun [C] a long weapon like a stick with one sharp end.
stone	/stəʊn/ noun [C] a small piece of rock: <i>Children threw stones at him.</i>
sweetgrass	/swi:t grɑ:s/ noun any of several moisture-loving grasses of the genus <i>Glyceria</i> having sweet flavour or odour.
technique	/tekˈni:k/ noun [C] a method of doing something using a special skill that you have developed: <i>statistical/analytical/surgical techniques.</i>
thread	/θred/ noun [C/U] a long thin fibre used for sewing pieces of cloth together or for weaving: <i>cotton/silk/nylon thread. You need a longer piece of thread.</i>
tool	/tu:l/ noun [C] a piece of equipment, usually one that you hold in your hand, that is designed to do a particular type of work: <i>kitchen/gardening/dental tools.</i>
unprocessed	/ʌn ˈprəʊsesd/ adj not treated or prepared by a special process.
weave	/wi:v/ verb [I/T] to make cloth by crossing long threads over and under each other <i>The women did the weaving.</i>
weaver	/ˈwi:və(r)/ noun [C] someone whose job is to weave cloth.
woodworking	/wʊdˌwɜ:kɪŋ/ noun the process of working wood.
workshop	/ˈwɜː(r)kˌʃɒp/ noun [C] a room or building where things are made using tools and machines.
wrap	/ræp/ verb [T] to cover something by putting something such as paper or cloth round it: <i>Keep the cheeses fresh by wrapping each one individually.</i>

8. **Across:** 1. weave, 6. basket, 7. ring, 8. dye, 11. container, 12. thread, 13. leaf, 14. increase; **Down:**
1. workshop, 2. extract, 3. fibre, 4. handle, 5. profit, 9. stone, 10. decline