

Social Studies

Topic 15: Traditional Relationships Between People in Rwanda

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1. Choose the correct words from the list to fill the gaps in the text about **traditional relationships**.

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| households | extended | orphanages | aunts |
| friendship | relationships | related | ancestors |
| grown-ups | marriage | attitudes | |

Traditional social and cultural relationships

In traditional Rwandan society, religion was the most important aspect of life. Social and cultural

a) _____ between people were interconnected with religion.

Rwandans traditionally lived in scattered groups of b) _____, *ingo*. Families that were c) _____ to one another chose to live in places that pleased the spirits of their d) _____. These are people, such as our great grandparents, who were once part of our family.

Family relationships

All over the world good family relationships are the foundation of society. In Rwanda we have close family links with parents, grandparents, uncles, e) _____, and cousins. They are our f) _____ family. They give us support every day and in times of trouble. These family relationships help us to grow up with positive g) _____ towards care and co-operation.

Social relationships

Weddings are an important part of social relationships. h) _____ between two young people brings their two families together. The relatives enjoy the celebrations and i) _____ between families that this brings.

Orphans

There are many orphans in Rwanda as a result of the genocide. Some j) _____ take care of their brothers' and sisters', sometimes other people in the district will look after orphans. Thousands of children have been taken into k) _____.

2. Match the stages in the **Rwandan wedding ceremony** with their Rwandan names. Write your answers in the grid below.

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|---|
| a) | Kureshya or Kurambagiza | 1 | The bride comes out of the house and shows herself to everyone. She is then properly a part of her in-laws' household and works alongside them. |
| b) | Gufata irembo | 2 | The bride is kept indoors for some days without working. |
| c) | Gusaba | 3 | Presentation of the dowry, which is normally a cow or cows. |
| d) | Gutebutsa | 4 | The bride is carried on a mat to the bridegroom's hut where the ceremony is held. |
| e) | Gukwa | 5 | The groom officially asks for the bride. |
| f) | Ubukwe | 6 | The bride is allowed to cook for her husband. |
| g) | Kwarama | 7 | Discussion on when the wedding is to take place. |
| h) | Gutwikurura | 8 | The groom declares his intention to marry and takes a cow to the bride's family. |
| i) | Gutekesha | 9 | The groom finds out about the family of his future bride with the help of his family and friends. |

Write your answers here:

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| a) | b) | c) | d) | e) | f) | g) | h) | i) |
| | | | | | | | | |

3. Put the following **stages in the death ceremony** in the right sequence. Write your answers in the grid below.

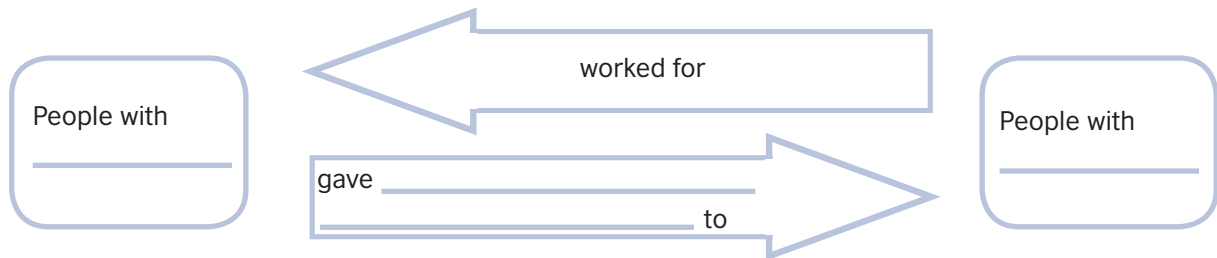
- During the burial ceremony the traditional priests, Abase, say special prayers and offerings are made to the ancestral spirits.
- After the burial there is a period of mourning.
- When all the funeral rites have been completed the deceased becomes umuzimu.
- After the death, the person or people who are bereaved remain in their house and are cared for by their extended family and neighbours.
- The burial takes place within two days of the death and everyone is expected to join in the burial ceremony.
- Before the burial, the men prepare the grave.

Write your answers here:

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| a) | b) | c) | d) | e) | f) |
| | | | | | |

4. Use the information in the text about **traditional economic relationships** to fill in the gaps in the diagrams.

Ubhake was a traditional economic relationship between people who owned cattle and those who did not. People with many cows were patrons and people with few or no cows were clients. People who did not own cattle could work for someone who was rich, and in return they could be given a number of favours including a cow, or plot of land to farm.



Today, sometimes a farmer will look after the cattle of another person. In return that person will give the farmer a calf.



In the past, most farmers produced nearly all they needed for their families but a system of exchange (bartering) grew up at an early stage of economic development. Farmers exchanged animal products, clothes, salt, soap, honey, beans, and sorghum between themselves.



There was exchange between farmers and craftsmen so that the farmers would have better tools to cultivate the land. Craftsmen made the tools and farmers exchanged food for them.

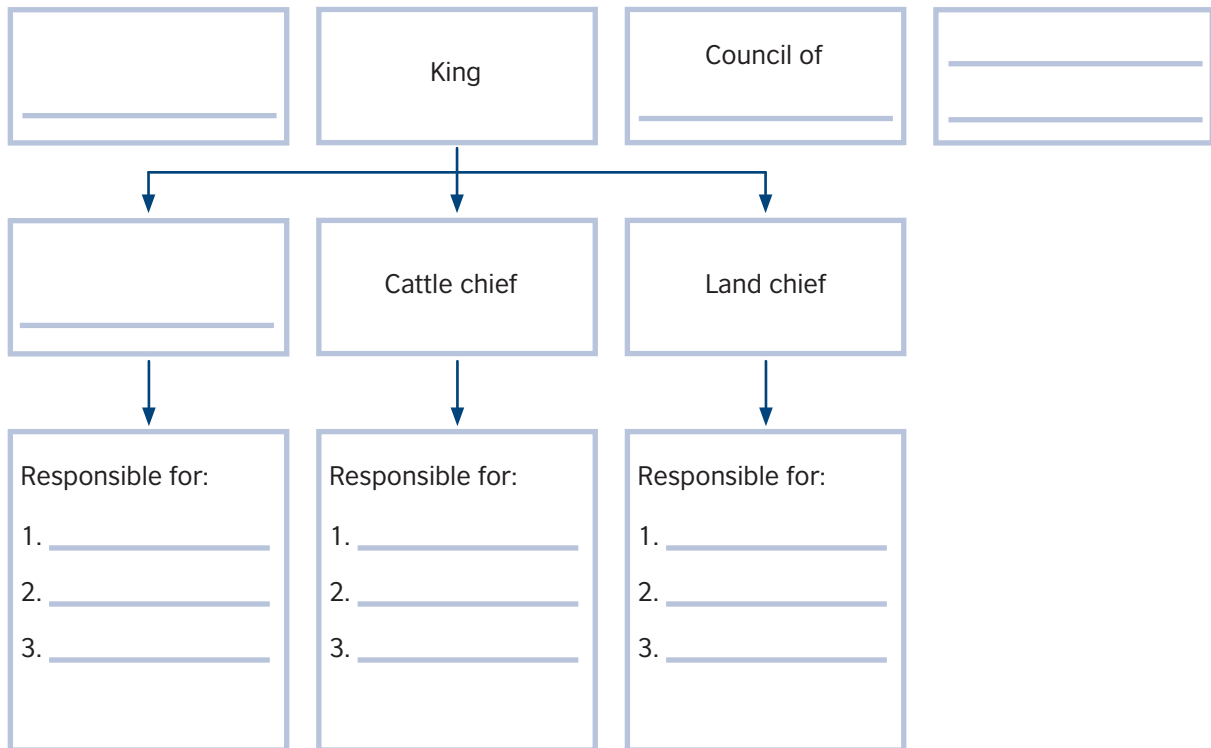


5. Use the information in the text about traditional political relationships to fill in the gaps in the diagram.

Traditionally, the King, Umwami, was believed to have special powers from God. He had total power but ruled together with the Queen Mother (Umugabekazi). The king was assisted by the Council of Chiefs, Abatware b'Intebe and by the keepers of royal secrets (Abiru).

Some chiefs were responsible for different sections of society.

- The Military Chief was responsible for the army. He was in charge of protecting the borders and mobilising fighters and had to protect Rwanda from invasion.
- The Cattle Chief, Umunyamukenge, looked after everything to do with cattle keeping, grazing, and settling land disputes.
- The Land Chief, Umunyabutaka, was responsible for agricultural land and produce, and for collecting all land-related taxes.



6. Find the words about **traditional relationships** in the word search.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>V C R C A U N T R O J P O X A R</p> <p>O Y C O S Q N D E G I O G S A P</p> <p>S S J N W E H O O H F N R X A I</p> <p>K H F R I E N D S H I P O N S O</p> <p>F F T L D H D N O N B A O E Y A</p> <p>A H C I T S O D R X S T M B H O</p> <p>V R R I B I S U I B C R O E S L</p> <p>B B P B T L O H S N N O A R E Q</p> <p>E E I A T M C G A E G N G E V N</p> <p>B F L R D G I E S X H D N A X T</p> <p>O E D T N S E L R T O O C V S E</p> <p>R H C E D S T L J E H W L E S D</p> <p>T E R R V V Y B G N Y R G D C Q</p> <p>Q S F Y S C I V N D P Y V T E S</p> <p>N E K P S B F U N E R A L E E S</p> <p>S M E A T E S I L D N R R O I E</p> | <p>aunt</p> <p>barter</p> <p>bereaved</p> <p>bride</p> <p>groom</p> <p>client</p> <p>dowry</p> <p>extended</p> <p>friendship</p> <p>funeral</p> <p>household</p> <p>mourning</p> <p>patron</p> <p>relationship</p> <p>society</p> <p>wedding</p> |
|---|--|

7. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences about **traditional relationships**.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | would help to | was damaged | rebuild it. | If someone's house | other people | or burnt down |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | |
| b) | a large area of land. | with big farming tasks | help each other | or harvesting | People used to | like cultivating |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | |
| c) | known as kunywana | were made between | Long-lasting links | by blood pacts | or igihango. | families |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | |
| d) | a gift as an act of | a cow may be | The giving of gifts | given to someone as | is important, for example | great friendship. |

Correct sentence:

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| e) | from childhood | Just before children | there is an initiation ceremony | to the adult life. | become adults | to celebrate their journey |
|----|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------|

Correct sentence:

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| f) | to sit, drink, smoke, | a boy is allowed | and take part | with elders. | in discussions | At the initiation ceremony |
|----|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|

Correct sentence:

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|---------|
| g) | known as igikingi. | a land tenure system | large areas | There was | based on leasing | of land |
|----|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|---------|

Correct sentence:

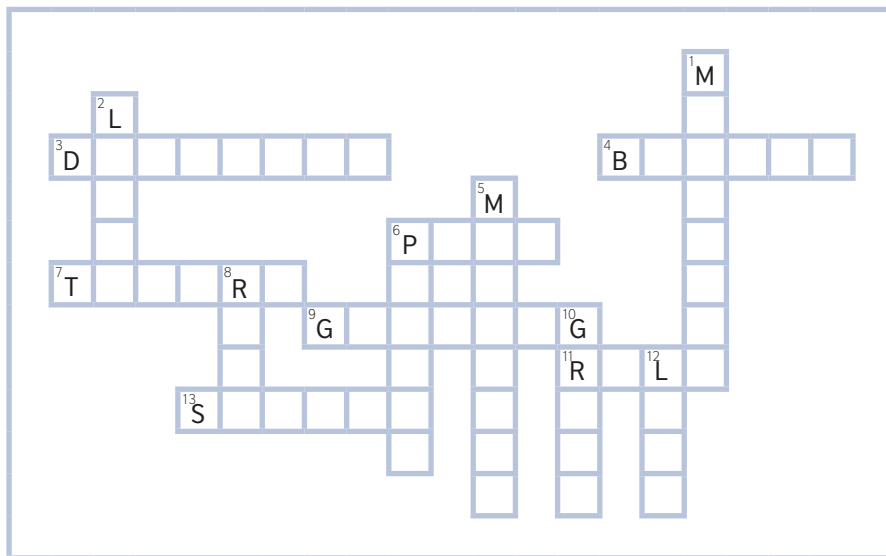
8. Complete the crossword by answering the following questions. All the correct answers are words about **traditional relationships**.

Across

3. A dead person.
4. The process of putting a dead body into a grave in the ground at a funeral.
6. A piece of land used for a particular purpose.
7. Someone's right to live on land and own it.
9. Land on which animals eat grass.
11. To officially control or govern a country or area.
13. To end an argument by making an agreement.

Down

1. The relationship between two people who are husband and wife.
2. To have a legal agreement in which someone pays you money to use land belonging to you.
5. To prepare an army to fight a war.
6. The words that someone says when they are speaking to God.
8. A traditional ceremony.
10. The place where a dead body is buried in a hole in the ground.
12. A relationship between two or more people, organisations, or countries.



Glossary

| | |
|-------------|---|
| aunt | /ɑːnt/ noun the sister of your mother or father, or the wife of your uncle: <i>I loved visiting my aunt and uncle.</i> |
| barter | /ˈbɑː(r)tə(r)/ verb [T/I] to exchange goods or services for other goods or services instead of using money: <i>They got what they needed by bartering their livestock. We used to barter with the guards to get cigarettes.</i> |
| bereaved | /biˈriːvd/ adj a bereaved person is someone whose close friend or family member has recently died. |
| blood pact | /blʌd pækt/ phrase, a very serious and legally binding pact between two or more parties in which blood from each party is placed onto the bottom of the pact next to the signature of each of the parties involved. |
| bride | /braɪd/ noun [C] a woman who is getting married, or who has recently married. |
| burial | /ˈberiəl/ noun [C/U] the process of putting a dead body into a grave in the ground at a funeral: <i>The family chose cremation rather than burial.</i> |
| burn down | /bɜː(r)n daʊn/ phrasal verb [I/T] to destroy a building or something large with fire, or to be destroyed in this way: <i>The entire house burnt down in 20 minutes.</i> |
| bury | /ˈberi/ verb [T] to put someone's dead body in the ground during a funeral ceremony: <i>All his family are buried in the same cemetery.</i> |
| calf | /kɑːf/ noun [C] a young cow. |
| cattle | /ˈkæt(ə)/ noun [plural] cows and bulls kept by farmers for their milk or meat. A group of cattle is called a herd: <i>dairy cattle. a cattle ranch.</i> |
| celebrate | /ˈseləbreɪt/ verb [I/T] to do something enjoyable in order to show that an occasion or event is special: <i>Let's have a party to celebrate your birthday. The team is celebrating their third successive win.</i> |
| celebration | /ˈseləbreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] a party or special event at which you celebrate something such as a birthday or a religious holiday: <i>The whole family came for our anniversary celebration.</i> |
| ceremony | /ˈserəməni/ noun [C] a formal public event with special traditions, actions, or words: <i>a ceremony to honour those who died in the war. an awards ceremony.</i> |
| chief | /tʃiːf/ noun [C] the leader of a group of people who have the same customs, beliefs, and language and live in a particular area. |
| childhood | /ˈtʃaɪldhʊd/ noun [C/U] the time of your life when you are a child: <i>We spent our childhood in a small town in the mountains.</i> |
| client | /ˈklaɪənt/ noun [C] someone who pays for the services of a professional person such as a doctor or lawyer: <i>She advises clients on their investments.</i> |
| collect | /kəˈlekt/ verb [T] to get money from someone for a particular purpose: <i>Someone came to collect the rent. collect tax.</i> |
| council | /ˈkaʊns(ə)/ noun [C] the elected officials who govern a local area such as a city or county: <i>a member of the city council.</i> |
| cousin | /ˈkʌz(ə)n/ noun [C] a child of your uncle or aunt. <i>Harry and I are cousins.</i> |
| cow | /kaʊ/ noun [C] an animal kept by farmers for its milk or meat. |
| cultivate | /ˈkʌltɪveɪt/ verb [T] to make land suitable for growing crops or plants: <i>Most of the world's fertile land is already being cultivated.</i> |
| death | /deθ/ noun [C] an occasion when someone dies: <i>the rising number of deaths on the roads every year. There has recently been a death in their family.</i> |
| deceased | /diˈsiːst/ noun [C] a dead person, especially when the death or deaths were recent: <i>The deceased was a highly respected member of the farming community.</i> |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| dispute | /dɪˈspju:t/ noun [C/U] a serious disagreement, especially one between groups of people that lasts for a long time: <i>a territorial dispute between rival gangs. a dispute over pay.</i> |
| dowry | /ˈdaʊəri/ noun [C] money and property that, in some cultures, a woman's family gives to her husband when they get married. |
| exchange | /ɪksˈtʃeɪndʒ/ noun [C] a situation in which one person gives another person something and receives something else of a similar type or value in return: <i>The two sides agreed an exchange of prisoners of war.</i> |
| exchange | /ɪksˈtʃeɪndʒ/ verb [T] to give someone something in return for something that they give you: <i>We exchanged addresses and promised to write to one another. The tokens can be exchanged for goods in any of our shops.</i> |
| extended | /ɪkˈstendɪd/ adj (family) a family group that includes grandparents, cousins, aunts etc. |
| favour | /ˈfeɪvə(r)/ noun [C] something that you do for someone in order to help them: <i>Could you do me a favour? Can I ask a favour of you?</i> |
| friendship | /ˈfren(d)ʃɪp/ noun [C] a relationship between people who are friends: <i>The reunion gave us a chance to renew old friendships. Whatever happened, I did not want to lose Sarah's friendship.</i> |
| funeral | /ˈfju:n(ə)rəl/ noun [C] a ceremony that takes place after someone dies, usually including a religious ceremony, and the formal process of taking the body to the place where it is buried or cremated: <i>He flew home to arrange for his father's funeral.</i> |
| gift | /ɡɪft/ noun [C] something that you give to someone as a present: <i>He bought generous gifts for all his family. The video camera was a retirement gift from colleagues.</i> |
| grandparent | /ˈɡɒd,peərənt/ noun [C] the mother or father of your mother or father. |
| grave | /ɡreɪv/ noun [C] the place where a dead body is buried in a deep hole in the ground: <i>He's never even visited his mother's grave.</i> |
| grazing | noun [U] land on which animals eat grass. |
| groom | /ɡru:m/ noun [C] a man who is getting married, or who has recently married. |
| grow up | /ɡrəʊ ʌp/ phrasal verb to change from being a baby or young child to being an older child or adult: <i>She's really starting to grow up now.</i> |
| grown-up | /ɡrəʊn ʌp/ noun [C] an adult: used when talking to children. |
| harvest | /ˈhɑ:(r)vɪst/ verb [T] to collect crop from the fields. |
| honey | /ˈhʌni/ noun [U] a sweet, sticky yellow or brown food made by bees. |
| household | /ˈhaʊs, həʊld/ noun [C] the people who live in a house or flat when they are considered as a single unit: <i>What percentage of the city's households live in poverty? a one-/two-/four-person household.</i> |
| hut | /hʌt/ noun [C] a small simple shelter: <i>a village of stone huts. a beach hut.</i> |
| initiation | /ɪˌnɪʃiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C/U] a process or ceremony in which someone becomes a member of an organization or group: <i>a secret initiation. initiation rites/rituals/ ceremonies.</i> |
| in-laws | /ɪn lɔ:z/ noun [C] someone who you are related to by marriage, especially the father or mother of your husband or wife: <i>We're going to stay with the in-laws this weekend.</i> |
| king | /kɪŋ/ noun [C] a man who rules a country and is the senior male member of the royal family: <i>Oswald became king in 634. William was crowned King of England on Christmas Day, 1066.</i> |
| lease | /li:s/ verb [T] to have a legal agreement in which someone pays you money to use a building, land, or equipment belonging to you for a specific period of time: <i>The offices are currently leased to a design company.</i> |
| link | /lɪŋk/ noun [C] a relationship between two or more people, organizations, or countries: <i>trading/economic/family links. At that time there was a close link between Scotland and France.</i> |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| look after | /lʊk 'ɑ:ftə(r)/ phrasal verb [T] to take care of someone or something and make certain that they have everything they need: <i>It's hard work looking after three children all day.</i> |
| marriage | / 'mæɪndʒ/ noun [C/U] the relationship between two people who are husband and wife: <i>a long and happy marriage.</i> |
| marry | / 'mæəri/ verb [T] if someone marries someone else, they become the husband or wife of that person: <i>The day I married Sarah was the happiest day of my life.</i> |
| mobilise | /məʊbilaɪz/ verb [T] to prepare an army to fight a war. |
| mourning | / 'mɔ:(r)nɪŋ/ noun [U] the process or ceremony of expressing great sadness because someone has died. |
| offering | / 'ɒf(ə)nɪŋ/ noun [C] something that someone gives to a church or to a god. |
| orphan | / 'ɔ:(r)f(ə)n/ noun [C] a child whose parents have died. |
| orphanage | / 'ɔ:(r)f(ə)nɪdʒ/ noun [C] a building where orphans live and are looked after. |
| patron | / 'peɪtrən/ noun [C] A noble or wealthy person, normally in history, who granted favour and protection to someone in exchange for certain services. |
| plot | /plɒt/ noun [C] a piece of land used for a particular purpose, for example building a house or growing plants. |
| prayer | /preə(r)/ noun [C] the words that someone says when they are speaking to God: <i>a prayer for peace He said a prayer for their safety.</i> |
| protect | /prə'tekt/ verb [T] to keep someone or something safe from harm, injury, damage, or loss: <i>Are you prepared to protect yourself in case of attack? The hat only partially protected his face from the sun.</i> |
| queen | /kwi:n/ noun [C] a woman who rules a country because she belongs to a royal family: <i>Plans were afoot for a royal visit from the King and Queen of Spain. She was crowned queen in 1953.</i> |
| rebuild | / ri:'bɪld/ verb [T] to build something again after it has been damaged or destroyed: <i>Most of the church has been restored or rebuilt.</i> |
| relationship | /ri'leɪf(ə)nʃɪp/ noun [C] the way in which two or more people or things are connected with or involve each other: <i>There is a close relationship between poverty and crime.</i> |
| rite | /raɪt/ noun [C] noun [C] a traditional ceremony, especially a religious one. |
| royal | / 'rɔɪəl/ adj relating to a king or queen or the members of their family: <i>the royal palace. a royal wedding.</i> |
| rule | /ru:l/ verb [I/T] to officially control or govern a country or area: <i>Portugal ruled East Timor for nearly four centuries. At that time, the Emperor ruled over most of Europe and North Africa.</i> |
| salt | /sɔ:lt/ noun [U] a white substance that is often added to food before or after cooking to improve its flavour: <i>Add a pinch of salt.</i> |
| settle | / 'set(ə)l/ verb [I/T] to end an argument by making an agreement: <i>We are going to settle our differences, once and for all. Neither side shows any intention of settling at this stage.</i> |
| smoke | /sməʊk/ verb [I/T] to suck smoke from a cigarette, pipe etc into your mouth and lungs: <i>Phil was reading the paper and smoking a cigarette.</i> |
| soap | /səʊp/ noun [C/U] a substance that you use with water to wash your body or an object. It can be a liquid, but is usually a solid piece called a bar of soap. |
| sorghum | / 'sɔ:(r)gəm/ noun [U] a plant that produces grain and grows mainly in tropical areas. |
| take care of | /teɪk keə(r) əv/ phrase, to do the necessary things for someone who needs help or protection: <i>Who will take care of the children?</i> |
| tax | /tæks/ noun [C/U] an amount of money that you have to pay to the government that it uses to provide public services and pay for government institutions: <i>Income tax payments are due on the 15th of April.</i> |

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|---------|--|
| tenure | /ˈtenjə(r)/ noun [U] someone's right to live on land and own it. |
| tool | /tuːl/ 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> . |
| uncle | /ˈʌŋk(ə)/ noun [C] the brother of one of your parents, or the husband of your aunt. You are his niece or nephew: <i>The business was owned by my uncle. a letter from Uncle Richard.</i> |
| wedding | /ˈwedɪŋ/ noun [C] a ceremony in which two people get married: <i>We wanted a quiet wedding. They are planning a summer wedding.</i> |

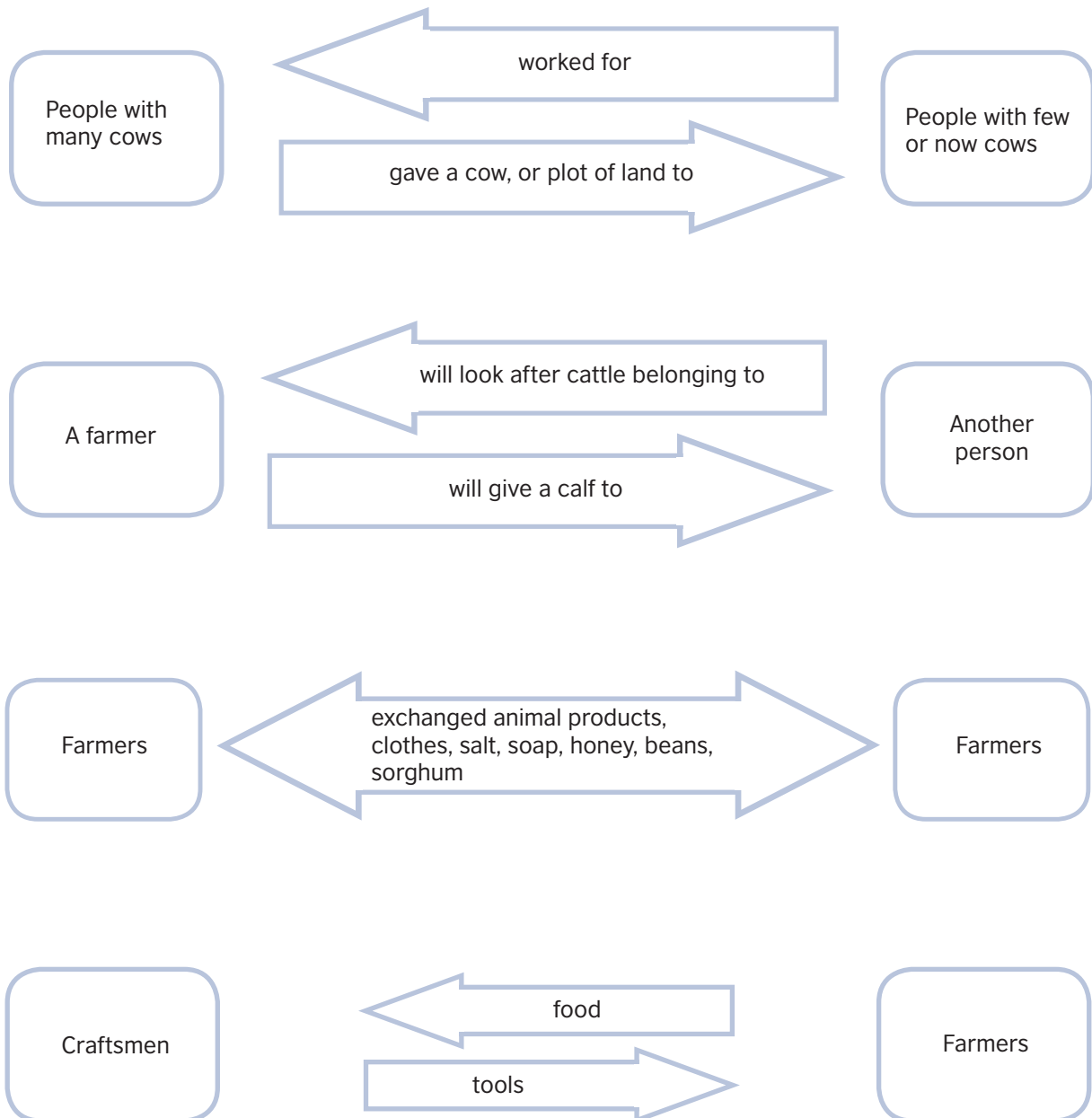
Key:

1. a) relationships, b) households, c) related, d) ancestors, e) aunts, f) extended, g) attitudes, h) Marriage, i) friendship, j) grown-ups, k) orphanages

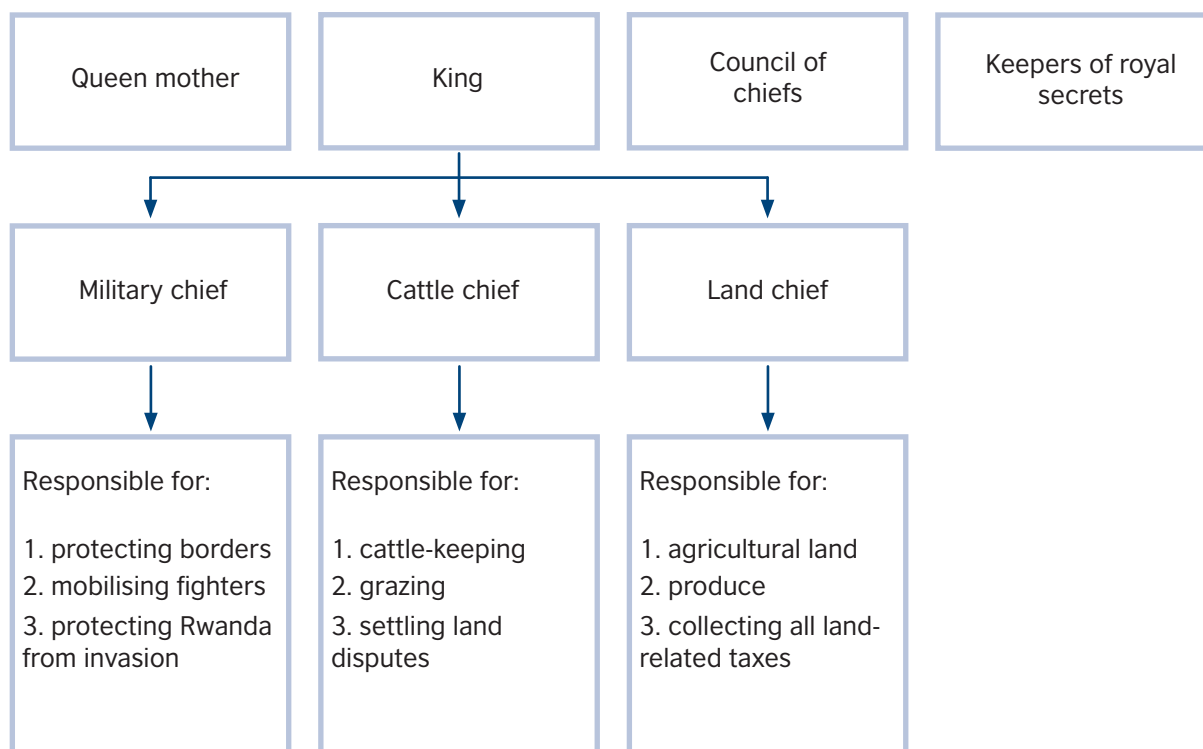
2. a) 9, b) 8, c) 5, d) 7, e) 3, f) 4, g) 2, h) 1, i) 6

3. a) 4, b) 5, c) 6, d) 1, e) 3, f) 2

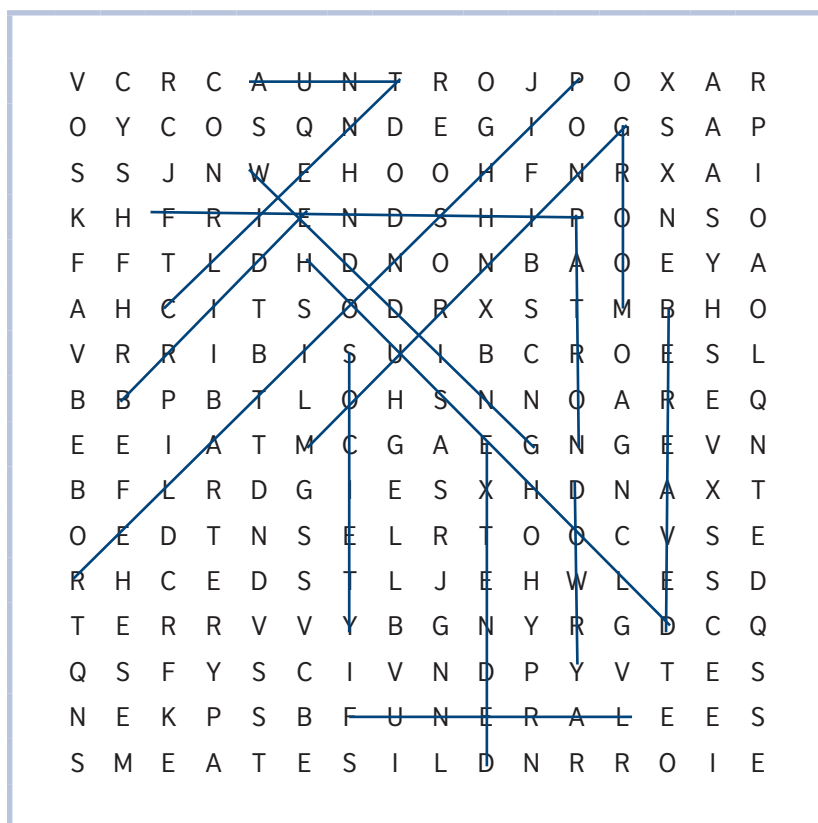
4.



5.



6.



7.

- a) If someone's house was damaged or burnt down, other people would help to rebuild it.
- b) People used to help each other with big farming tasks like cultivating or harvesting a large area of land.
- c) Long-lasting links were made between families by blood pacts known as kunywana or igihango.
- d) The giving of gifts is important, for example a cow may be given to someone as a gift as an act of great friendship
- e) Just before children become adults there is an initiation ceremony to celebrate their journey from childhood to the adult life.
- f) At the initiation ceremony a boy is allowed to sit, drink, smoke, and take part in discussions with elders.
- g) There was a land tenure system based on leasing large areas of land known as igikingi.

8. **Across:** 3. deceased, 4. burial, 6. plot, 7. tenure, 9. grazing, 11. rule, 13. settle; **Down:** 1. marriage, 2. lease, 5. mobilise, 6. prayer, 8. rite, 10. grave, 12. link