

# **Social Studies**

## **Topic 19: Gender in Society**

## Topic 19: Gender in Society

1. Use the information in the text about **men and women's traditional roles in Rwanda** to complete the table below.

The earliest hunter-gatherers had a simple division of duties. The men's main duty was to hunt for meat. They also looked for fruit and berries. Women gave birth, looked after children and cared for the houses. They also collected fruit and berries around their homes. The men became potters as well as hunters.

Farmers divided their duties differently. Men worked on the crops and looked after the animals and did other jobs around the farm. Women looked after the home, fetched water, prepared and cooked food and cared for the children. They also worked on the crops doing jobs like weeding.

Cattle herders were different again. There was a clearer division between men and women. Cattle herding was done by men and boys. Boys were trained to be warriors as well as cattle herders. Women worked closer to the homes, caring for children, preparing and cooking food.

	Men's roles	Women's roles
Hunter-gatherers		
Farmers		
Cattle herders		

2. Put the following roles into categories to show **traditional gender roles in Rwanda**. Write your answers in the grid below.

- a) were responsible for their family's health
- b) owned the land and the cattle
- c) were considered to be the peacemakers
- d) carried water to the home and fetched firewood
- e) carried out traditional trade exchanges
- f) could give a name to their child
- g) were responsible for building the family house
- h) did all the cooking and child care
- i) could plant trees for the family wood
- j) could be chosen to spend time at the royal court or with the local chief
- k) were responsible for planting and harvesting food crops
- l) were responsible for the family's income
- m) were the most important people in the household
- n) grew herbs and made medicines

Men's roles	Women's roles

3. Choose the correct words from the list to fill the gaps in the text about **traditional and modern gender roles in Rwanda**.

divorce	disagreements	inherit	borrow
permission	widows	schooling	head

Men and women were treated differently in traditional Rwandan society. Women were unable to

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ property or land. This meant that they were unable to provide for their children if their husband died. However, the brother-in-law or clan leader would make sure that
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ and orphans were looked after.

Traditional social law stopped women from running or working in any business without their husband's <sup>c)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Traditionally, girls did not receive formal  
 d) \_\_\_\_\_.

The Civil Code and the Family Code stated that the husband was the <sup>e)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of the household and that his view was more important in <sup>f)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ between husband and wife.

Today women run businesses and are able to <sup>g)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ money from banks. If a husband and wife <sup>h)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, the care of the children is decided by agreement. Women are now on committees at every level of government. However, more men than women receive higher education.

4. Complete the table about **gender roles** to show who in your community and family usually does the activities listed.

Activity	Men usually do it	Women usually do it
run businesses		
prepare and cook the food		
do the housework		
fetch water		
look after the children		
do the shopping		
build the house		
do repairs to the house		
earn the main income		
employ people		
work in the fields		

Do you think this is a fair distribution of roles?

5. Find words about **gender roles** in the word search.

G M I J T C H S T B F W A W P X S M O M G G S E I C M E C G W E I C I V T P H O H T Y H S M S N E V A N J C O O K T G H O I E O A W B A T P U A D E R U M M E G W I S Z E Y S R O L E S V S D T N E Q I S W E C I P H Q E E E C L P E E O H H C N Q R T A E T W W O U D I V O R C E E S G C S N M B I R N E L R O T Q Q T B M S O W O H H R D F M W H E L L E P J T C R E E D U E S N L C H P E L A Q T R A O E T T J X I I L S Y E N S I O D T R Y C S V G P E N U D X T E W B E E S H D G R T H E C G K R P S C Y J U M G H A	borrow cook divorce duty fetch head herd household hunter income inherit own role weed widow
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6. Make sentences about **female members of parliament in the Rwandan election of 2008** by matching the beginnings and endings. Write your answers in the grid below.

a)	After the election Rwanda will be the first country	1	48.8 per cent were women.
b)	In the election women have taken	2	for the most women in parliament.
c)	The number could rise	3	a thirty per cent quota for female MPs.
d)	The constitution of Rwanda ensures	4	to be in the house, cook food, look after the children.
e)	Before the election, Rwanda already held the world record	5	where women will outnumber men in parliament.
f)	In the previous parliament	6	if three seats reserved for the disabled and young people go to females.
g)	The proportion of women in parliament will now be	7	they see things differently.
h)	A woman voter said: men in our culture used to think that women are there	8	forty-four out of eighty seats.
i)	But now	9	at least fifty-five per cent.

Write your answers here:

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

7. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences about **the majority of women in the Rwandan parliament**.

a)	foreign minister and	a third	including	Women hold	of all cabinet positions	police commissioner general.
Correct sentence: .....						
b)	has become	where women	Rwanda's parliament	the first	in the world	claim the majority.
Correct sentence: .....						
c)	old patriarchal laws	One result is that	many African societies.	Rwanda	that are still enforced in	has banned
Correct sentence: .....						
d)	ending	has passed laws	and child abuse.	aimed at	The legislature	domestic violence
Correct sentence: .....						
e)	against women.	all laws	A committee	is now removing	that discriminate	from the legal code
Correct sentence: .....						

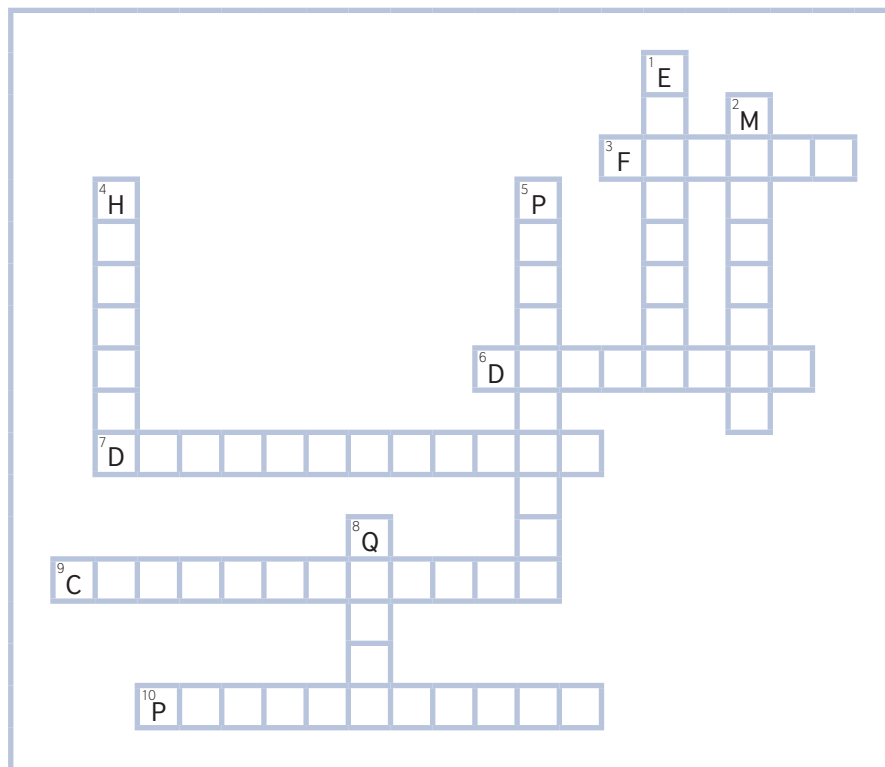
8. Complete the crossword by answering the following questions. All the correct answers are words about **gender in Rwanda**.

**Across**

3. Referring to a person who belongs to the sex that can produce babies or eggs.
6. To control someone or something by having more power or influence.
7. To treat someone unfairly because of their religion, race, or other personal features.
9. A set of basic laws or rules that control how a country is governed.
10. Referring to a society or system in which men have all the power and influence.

**Down**

1. An occasion when people vote for someone to represent them.
2. Most of the people or things in a group.
4. The man that a woman is married to.
5. A quantity of something that is a part of the whole.
8. A number or percentage, especially of people, constituting a required minimum.



## Glossary

ban	/bæn/verb [T] to say officially that something is illegal or not allowed: <i>a new law that bans tobacco advertising.</i>
berry	/ˈberi/ noun [C] a small fruit that does not have a stone inside it.
borrow	/ˈbɒrəʊ/ verb [I/T] to borrow money, especially from a bank, and agree to pay it back at a particular time. Money that you borrow is called a loan: <i>We borrowed £20,000 to start up the business.</i>
brother-in-law	/ˈbrʌðə(r) ɪn lɔː/ noun [C] 1 the brother of your husband or wife; 2 your sister's husband; 3 the husband of your husband's sister, or of your wife's sister.
business	/ˈbɪznəs/ noun [C] an organization that buys or sells products or services for money. <i>A small family business. Matthew's little shop has turned into a thriving business.</i>
care for	/keə(r) fə(r)/ phrasal verb, to do the necessary things for someone who needs help or protection: <i>Teach your children how to care for their pets.</i>
child care	/ˈtʃaɪld, keə(r)/ noun [U] the job of looking after children, especially while their parents are working: <i>A lack of adequate child care is making it difficult for women to return to work.</i>
clan	/klæn/ noun [C] a large group of families that are related to each other: <i>the Stewart clan.</i>
cook	/kʊk/ verb [I/T] to prepare food and heat it so that it is ready to eat: <i>Cook the apple slowly until it is soft. When did you learn to cook?</i>
constitution	/ˌkɒnstɪˈtjuːʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] a set of basic laws or rules that control how a country is governed or how an organization operates.
disagreement	/ˌdɪsəˈɡriːmənt/ noun [C/U] a situation in which people do not agree: <i>There has been considerable disagreement about the best way to deal with the crisis. The negotiations ended in disagreement.</i>
discriminate	/ˌdɪˈskrɪmɪneɪt/ verb [I] to treat someone unfairly because of their religion, race, or other personal features: <i>Caulfield claimed they had discriminated against him because of his nationality.</i>
divide	/dɪˈvaɪd/ verb [T] to separate something into smaller parts and share the parts between people: <i>Work out how you would like to divide the money.</i>
division	/dɪˈvɪz(ə)n/ noun [C/U] the process of separating something into smaller parts and sharing it among two or more people: <i>a fair division of responsibilities among the members of the committee.</i>
divorce	/dɪˈvɔː(r)s/ verb [I/T] to take legal action to end your marriage: <i>She still refuses to divorce him. Paula's parents divorced when she was 14.</i>
domestic	/dəˈmestɪk/adj relating to people's homes and family life: <i>domestic chores, domestic appliances.</i>
dominate	/ˈdɒmɪneɪt/verb [I/T] to control someone or something by having more power or influence: <i>She tends to dominate the conversation.</i>
duty	/ˈdjuːti/ noun [C/U] a legal or moral obligation: <i>It is your duty as a parent to protect your children. He has a strong sense of family duty.</i>
election	/ɪˈlekʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] an occasion when people vote for someone to represent them, especially in a government: <i>The new regime is promising to hold free elections as soon as possible.</i>
equality	/ɪˈkwələti/ noun [U] the state of being equal, especially in having the same rights, status, and opportunities: <i>The Party is committed to sexual and racial equality. Countless people have died trying to achieve basic equality for women.</i>



female	/ˈfiːmeɪl/ adj a female person or animal belongs to the sex that can produce babies or eggs.
fetch	/fetʃ/ verb [T] to go and get someone or something: <i>He went to fetch his coat.</i>
gender	/ˈdʒendə(r)/ noun [C/U] the fact of being either male or female: <i>The job is open to all applicants regardless of age, race, or gender.</i>
give birth	/ɡɪv bɜː(r)θ/ phrase, if a woman gives birth to a baby, she produces it from inside her body: <i>She gave birth to a baby boy.</i>
harvest	/ˈhɑː(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.</i>
head	/hed/ noun [C] the leader or most important person in a group: <i>The ceremony was attended by heads of government from eleven countries. Head of a household.</i>
herb	/hɜː(r)b/ noun [C] a plant used for adding flavour to food or as a medicine.
herder	/ˈhɜː(r)də(r)/ noun [C] someone who herds and looks after a group of animals as their job.
herd	/hɜː(r)d/ verb [I/T] to make a group of animals move somewhere together.
household	/ˈhaʊs, həʊld/ noun [C] a domestic unit consisting of the members of a family who live together.
hunt	/hʌnt/ verb [I/T] to kill animals for food or for their skin or other parts, or for sport: <i>Crocodiles were hunted and killed for their teeth. We hunted for rabbits in the hills.</i>
hunter-gatherer	/ˈhʌntə(r) ˈɡæθərə(r)/ noun [C] one of a group of people who live by killing wild animals and finding food and do not keep any animals or grow any crops.
husband	/ˈhʌzbənd/ noun [C] the man that a woman is married to.
income	/ˈɪŋkʌm/ noun [C/U] money that someone gets from working, or from investing money: <i>What is your approximate annual income.</i>
inherit	/ɪnˈherɪt/ verb [I/T] 1. to receive property or money from someone who has died: <i>He inherited the business from his father.</i>
law	/lɔː/ noun the law [singular] the system of rules that must be obeyed in society: <i>Failing to declare any extra income is against the law.</i>
leader	/ˈliːdə(r)/ noun [C] someone who is responsible for or in control of a group, organization, country etc: <i>a political/military/religious leader.</i>
legislature	/ˈledʒɪslətʃə(r)/ noun [singular] the part of government that makes and changes laws.
look after	/lʊk ˈɑːftə(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>
majority	Noun [singular] most of the people or things in a group: <i>The majority of our employees are women. Young women are in the majority in the fashion industry.</i>
male	/meɪl/ adj belonging to the sex that does not give birth: <i>male colleagues/ counterparts /workers. A male elephant.</i>
medicine	/ˈmed(ə)s(ə)n/ noun [C] a substance that you take to treat an illness: <i>cough medicine. You have to take the medicine three times a day.</i>
minister	/ˈmɪnɪstə(r)/ noun [C] an official in charge of a government department in the UK and some other countries: <i>a meeting of trade ministers. the Minister for Education.</i>
orphan	/ˈɔː(r)f(ə)n/ noun [C] a child whose parents have died.

outnumber	/ˌaʊtˈnʌmbə(r)/verb [T] if one group outnumbered another, there are more in the first group than in the second.
own	/əʊn/ verb to legally have something, especially because you have bought it: <i>Before she died, she had given away nearly everything she owned.</i>
own	/əʊn/ determiner, pronoun belonging to or done by a particular person or thing and not any other: <i>You are free to do what you like in your own home. She has two small children of her own.</i>
parliament	/ˈpɑː(r)ləmənt/noun [C] an official elected group of people in some countries who meet to make the laws of the country and discuss national issues: <i>the Russian parliament.</i>
patriarchal	/ˌpeɪtriˈɑː(r)k(ə)l/adj a patriarchal society, system, or organization is one in which men have all the power and influence.
peacemaker	/ˈpiːsˌmeɪkə(r)/ noun [C] someone who tries to help to end a war: <i>The ex-president has been honoured as a peacemaker.</i>
percent	/pɜː(r)ˈsent/ noun [singular] one part of every 100: <i>Women now represent 50 per cent of the workforce.</i>
permission	/pɜː(r)ˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [U] the right to do something that is given to you by someone in authority: <i>You are not allowed to camp here without permission.</i>
prepare	/prɪˈpeə(r)/ verb [T] to make food ready to be cooked or eaten, for example by cleaning or cutting it: <i>Wash your hands before eating or preparing food.</i>
property	/ˈprɒpə(r)ti/ noun [U] things, especially valuable things, that are owned by someone: <i>The books are my personal property.</i>
proportion	/prəˈpɔː(r)ʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] a quantity of something that is a part of the whole: <i>Only a small proportion of graduates fail to get a job.</i>
provide for	/prəˈvaɪd fɔː(r)/ phrasal verb [T] to look after someone by making money in order to buy the things that they need: <i>She has always provided for her children.</i>
quota	/ˈkwɒtə/noun [C] a number or percentage, especially of people, constituting a required or targeted minimum.
record	noun [C] the best achievement so far in a particular activity, especially a sport: <i>She holds the world record in the 800 metres.</i>
responsible	/rɪˈspɒnsəb(ə)l/ adj in charge of someone or something: <i>The manager is responsible for the running of the theatre.</i>
role	/rəʊl/ noun [C] the purpose or influence of someone or something in a particular situation: <i>It's not my role to tell the politicians what to do. We expect parents to have a key role in this discussion.</i>
run	/rʌn/ verb [T] to control and organize something such as a business, organization, or event: <i>Sue's been running a mail-order business for ten years.</i>
seat	/siːt/ noun [C] a position as a member of a parliament, committee, court etc: <i>The Green Party won four seats in the new parliament.</i>
speaker	/ˈspiːkə(r)/noun [C] The presiding officer of a legislative assembly.
treat	/triːt əz/ verb [T] to behave towards someone in a particular way: <i>I wish you would stop treating me like a child!</i>
truck	/trʌk/noun [C] a large road vehicle that is used for carrying goods.
uphold	/ʌpˈhəʊld/ verb [T] to show that you support something such as an idea by what you say or do: <i>They were fighting to uphold the rights of small nations.</i>
weed	/wiːd/ verb [I/T] to remove unwanted plants from the ground.
widow	/ˈwɪdəʊ/ noun [C] a woman whose husband has died and who has not married again.

widower

/'wɪdəʊə(r)/ noun [C] a man whose wife has died and who has not married again.

## Key:

1.

	Men's roles	Women's roles
<b>Hunter-gatherers</b>	Hunted for meat Looked for fruit and berries Made pots	Gave birth Looked after children Cared for houses Collected fruit and berries
<b>Farmers</b>	Worked on crops Looked after animals Did jobs around the farm	Looked after home Fetched water Prepared and cooked food Cared for children Worked on the crops
<b>Cattle herders</b>	Herded cattle Were warriors	Cared for children Prepared and cooked food

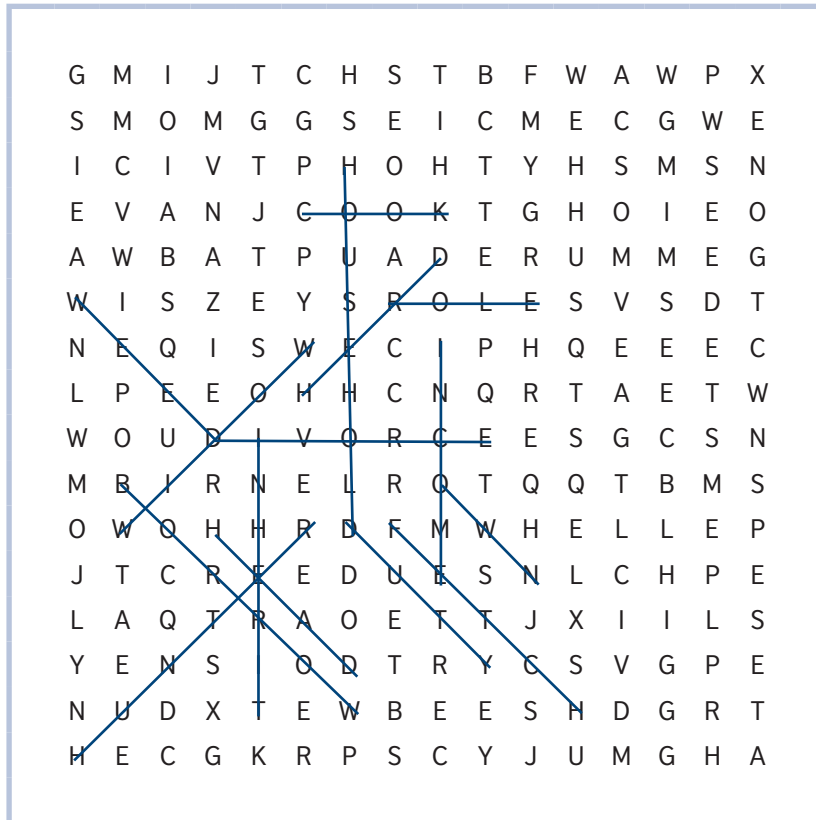
2.

Men's roles	Women's roles
b), e), f), g), i), j), l), m)	a), c), d), h), k), n)

3. a) inherit, b) widows, c) permission, d) schooling, e) head, f) disagreements, g) borrow, h) divorce

4. N/A

5.



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

7.

- a) Women hold a third of all cabinet positions, including foreign minister and police commissioner general.
- b) Rwanda's parliament has become the first in the world where women claim the majority.
- c) One result is that Rwanda has banned old patriarchal laws that are still enforced in many African societies.
- d) The legislature has passed laws aimed at ending domestic violence and child abuse.
- e) A committee is now removing from the legal code all laws that discriminate against women.

8. **Across:** 3. female, 6. dominate, 7. discriminate, 9. constitution, 10. patriarchal; **Down:** 1. election, 2. majority, 4. husband, 5. proportion, 8. quota