

Social Studies

Topic 21: Pre-colonial People and Their Economic and Commercial Activities

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

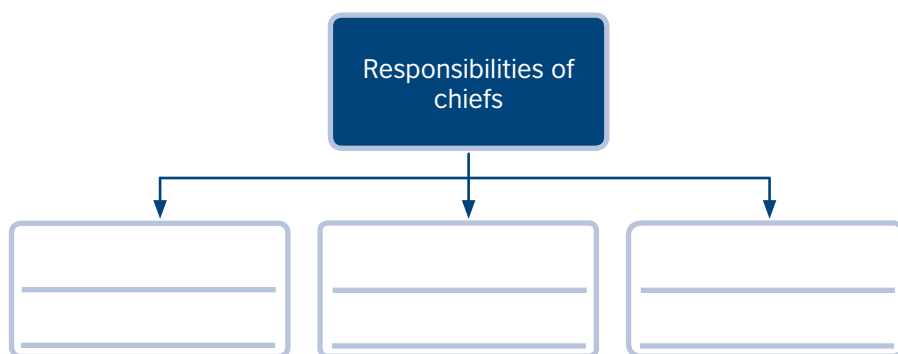
counsellors	kingdom	pre-colonial
chiefdoms	colony	tribute

The first ^{a)} _____ of Rwanda started more than six hundred years ago. It was very small – an area of about two thousand square kilometres. Then it grew bigger. It became a collection of small ^{b)} _____, under one King (Mwami). The Queen Mother and other ^{c)} _____ (Abiru) helped him rule. Some chiefdoms paid ^{d)} _____ (a tax collected by local chiefs) to the King. The kingdom remained strong until it became a German ^{e)} _____ in 1898. The period before is called the ^{f)} _____ period.

2. Use the information in the text about **the structure of society in historical Rwanda** to complete the diagrams.

Chiefs

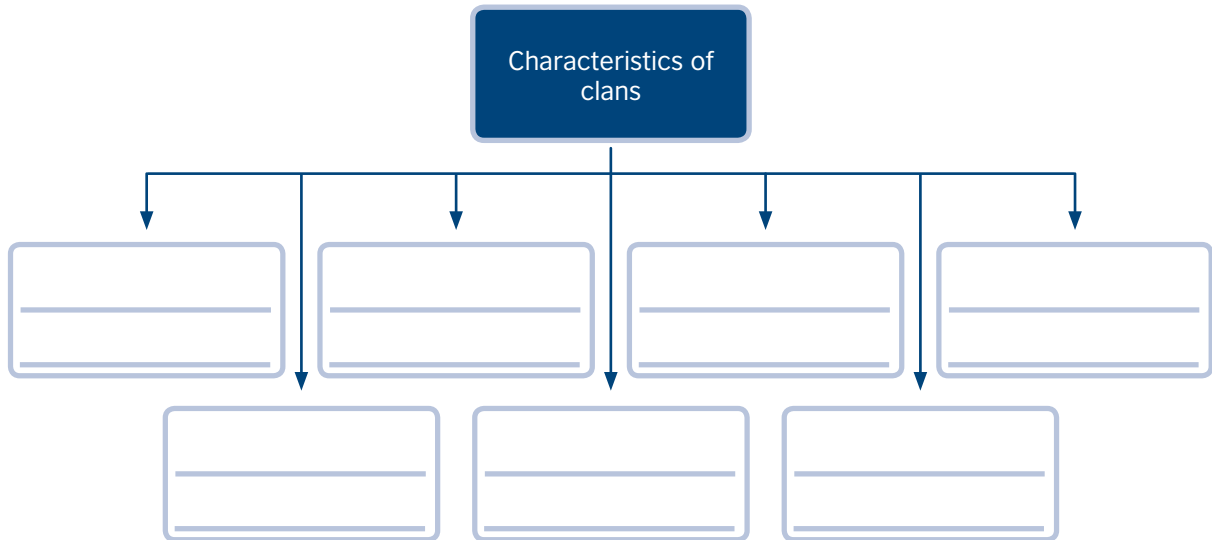
At first Rwanda was a collection of small chiefdoms, under one central King (Mwami). The chiefdoms became regions, each with three chiefs (abatware). One chief was in charge of land issues (Umunyabutaka). One chief was in charge of grazing (Umunyamukenke). One chief was a military chief in charge of the army and protecting the country (Umutware W'Ingabo).



Clans

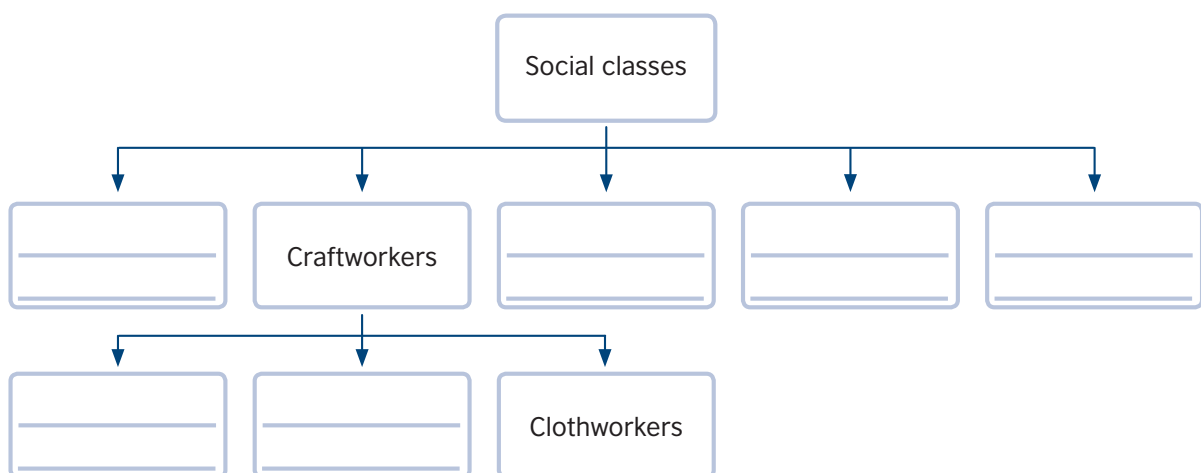
The people of Rwanda were divided into clans. The clans were like large families and gave their members a feeling of belonging. People knew their rights and responsibilities within the clan.

It is important to remember that there were no tribes in Rwanda. People from every social group belonged to the same clan. They traded with each other. They shared the same religion and culture. They intermarried with each other. They spoke the same language.



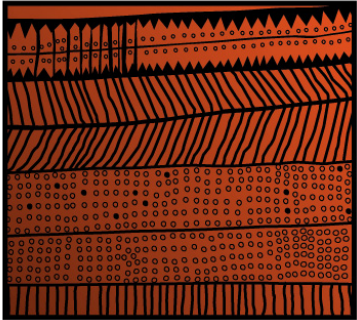

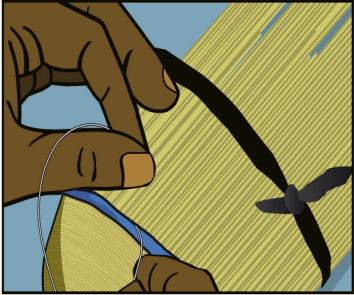
Social classes

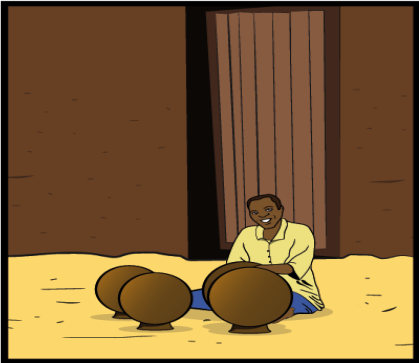
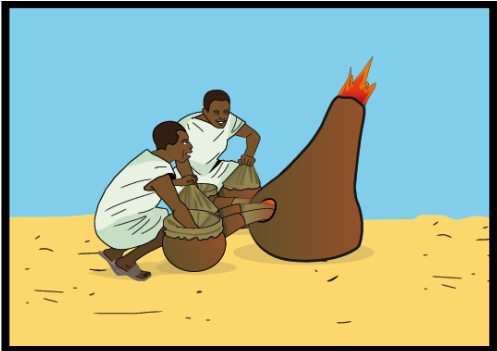
Social classes in early Rwanda depended on a person's occupation (the kind of work they did). Most people in Rwanda were farmers who grew crops to feed their families and trade with other groups. Others were cattle-keepers. Others were hunter-gatherers. Others specialised in crafts of various kinds. They were smiths (workers in metal) or shoemakers or made special cloths, or were skilled in some other way. There were also warriors, who defended the rest of the clan from enemies.



3. Match the names of **traditional crafts** with the pictures. Write your answers in the grid below.

a)	weaving baskets	b)	smelting iron	c)	making and painting bark cloth
d)	making pottery	e)	carving wood		

		
1.	2.	3.

	
4.	5.

4. Choose the correct words from the list to fill the gaps in the sentences about **culture**.

roles	oral	related
beliefs	customs	binds
legends	clothes	behave

- The term culture means all our ^{a)} _____ and traditions and our way of life.
- It includes our food and special drinks, our ^{b)} _____, our music and dancing.
- It also includes our religious ^{c)} _____ and the stories and legends told us by our

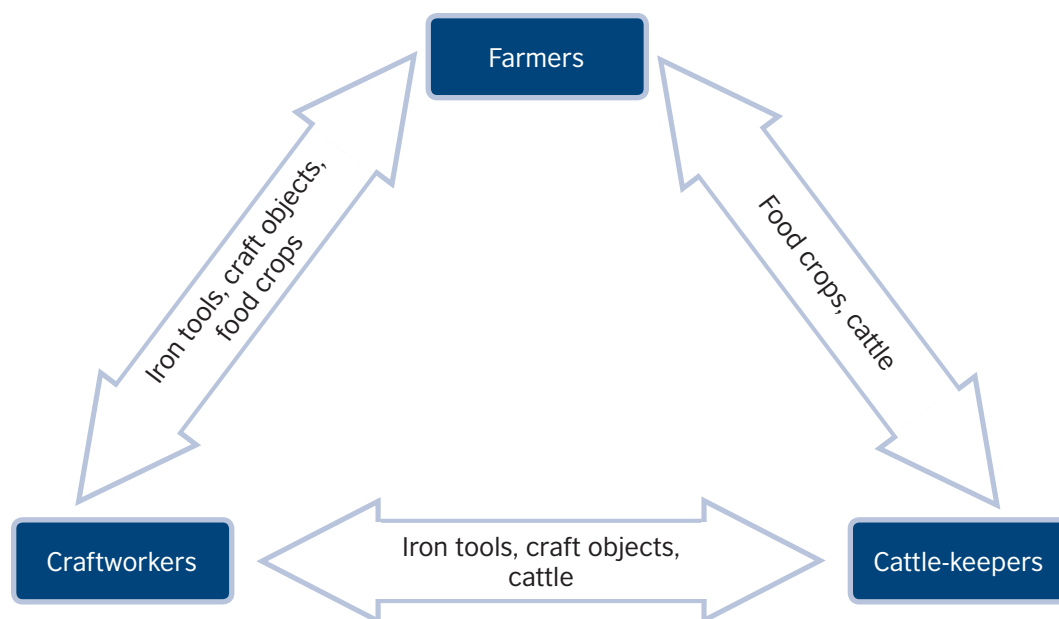
ancestors.

- It includes the way young people and old people ^{d)} _____ towards each other.
- It includes the ^{e)} _____ that men and women play in the family and the community.
- Culture ^{f)} _____ people together. Sharing a culture means that we know we belong to the same group or nation.
- Our ^{g)} _____ are part of the official literature of our country.
- Long ago, older people ^{h)} _____ these legends and stories to younger people, who then told them to their own children and grandchildren.
- This kind of history is called ⁱ⁾ _____ history.

5. Find the words about **history** in the word search.

I M X Y E B Z A D N L E A O C E	bind chief clan conquer counsellor custom intermarry kingdom myth shoemaker tax tribe tribute warrior
N S I A O C U S T O M L C L D I	
A B X U N O Q S T E S H N T S G	
R X I A E U Z C E I D R A E W Q	
S M C N I N T H M U I E T T D I	
A P E W D S H I A P Y U L X F S	
D E N U G E Q E E R B M A C L I	
S P K S O L B F R I S T H L I W	
H T R O H L W A R R I O R Q N O	
K A J T P O M T E K M C A I L S	
T C R H N R E Y D R I O A S B M	
Z S H J E H F M T S A N I Q O E	
G A Q T C L A N A H S Q G G K O	
C L N E W S R G R K Y U L D M I	
H I E T H D F E N E E E F E O D	
Z J F G J D E F A N U R S D E M	

6. Use the information in the picture to complete the sentences about **barter**.



Farmers traded _____ with craftworkers in return for _____.

Cattle-keepers traded _____ with farmers in return for _____.

Craftworkers traded _____ with cattle-keepers in return for _____.

7. Make sentences about **smelting in early Rwanda** by matching the beginnings and endings. Write your answers in the grid below.

a)	Forging was first developed	1	the metal from the rock.
b)	Ironworkers used smelting techniques to	2	make iron out of iron ore.
c)	Smelting is a way of heating iron ore in	3	into tools, weapons, and ornaments.
d)	Smelting releases	4	to forge the finished iron tools and weapons.
e)	First ironworkers shaped the metal	5	in East Africa nearly three thousand years ago.
f)	Then smiths heated the metal	6	a furnace using charcoal.

Write your answers here:

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

8. Match the **causes of economic problems in Rwandan history** with the problems.
 Write your answers in the grid below.

Causes		Problems	
a)	When there were heavy rains, storms and flash floods in the mountains,	1	Ironworkers could not find wood easily and made less iron.
b)	When there were cattle raids by clans from other areas,	2	cattle-keepers lost cattle.
c)	When there was drought,	3	there was no rain for crops to grow and cattle had no water.
d)	When there were wars,	4	the water destroyed the crops.
e)	When there was a shortage of trees, used to make charcoal for iron smelting,	5	people were afraid to travel and trade.

Write your answers here:

a)	b)	c)	d)	e)

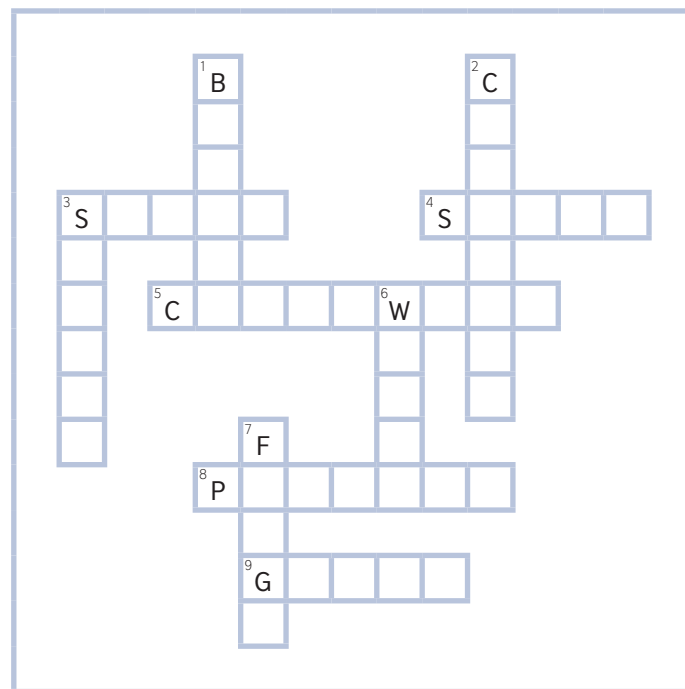
9. Complete the crossword by answering the following questions. All the correct answers are words about **early Rwandan economy**.

Across

3. A metalworker.
4. To heat and melt ore in a furnace, to remove the metal that it contains.
5. Work made or done by craftspeople.
8. The activity of making pots.
9. Objects that are produced for sale.

Down

1. To exchange goods or services for other goods or services instead of using money.
2. The process of selling goods or services for money.
3. To provide someone or something with something that they need or want.
6. To make cloth by crossing long threads over and under each other.
7. To shape heated metal.



Glossary

ancient	/ˈeɪnf(ə)nt/adj very old: <i>an ancient tradition.</i>
attack	/əˈtæk/verb [I/T] to use violence against a person or place: <i>It was shortly before midnight when the terrorists attacked.</i>
barkcloth	/bɑː(r)k kləθ/noun a papery fabric made from the fibrous inner bark of various trees.
barter	/ˈbɑː(r)tə(r)/ 1 verb [I/T] to exchange goods or services for other goods or services instead of using money. 2 noun [U] a system of exchanging goods or services instead of using money.
basket	/ˈbɑːskɪt/noun [C] a container for carrying or keeping things in, made from thin pieces of plastic, wire, or wood woven together.
behave	/biˈheɪv/verb [I] to act in a particular way: <i>The children behaved very badly.</i>
belief	/biˈliːf/noun [C] a strong feeling that something is true, real, or good.
belong	/biˈlɒŋ/verb [I] to feel happy and comfortable in a particular place or group: <i>I don't feel that I belong here.</i>
bind	/baɪnd/ verb [T] to unite people.
carve	/kɑː(r)v/verb [I/T] to make an object by cutting it from stone or wood, or to make a pattern by cutting into stone or wood.
charcoal	/ˈtʃɑː(r)kəʊl/ noun [U] a black substance made from burnt wood, used as a fuel.
chief	/tʃiːf/ noun [C] the leader of a tribe.
chiefdom	/tʃiːf dəm/ noun [C] a political or territorial unit ruled by a chief.
clan	/klæn/noun [C] a large group of families that are related to each other.
colonialist	/kəˈlɒniəlɪst/ noun [C] someone who colonises an area; a believer in colonialism.
commerce	/ˈkɒmɜː(r)s/ noun [U] the activity of buying and selling goods and services.
conquer	/ˈkɒŋkə(r)/ verb [I/T] to take control of land or people using force.
counsellor	/ˈkaʊns(ə)lə(r)/ noun [C] someone whose job is to give advice to people with problems.
craftwork	/kraːft wɜː(r)k/ noun [U] work made or done by craftspeople.
culture	/kraːftwɜː(r)k/noun [U] activities involving music, literature, and other arts: <i>African culture.</i>
custom	/ˈkʌstəm/noun [C/U] something that people do that is traditional or usual: <i>local customs and traditions.</i>
defend	/diˈfend/verb [T] to protect someone or something from attack: <i>Can the military defend the city against attack?</i>
drought	/draʊt/noun [C/U] a long period of time when there is little or no rain.
dynasty	/ˈdɪnəsti/noun [C] a family whose members rule a country or region for a long time, or are very successful in business or politics for a long time.
earn	/ɜː(r)n/verb [I/T] to receive money in exchange for working: <i>Most people here earn about \$10 a day. She earns a good living.</i>
economic	/ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk ækˈtɪvəti/adj relating to the economy, business, and trade: <i>economic development; The project will bring great social and economic benefits to the region.</i>

enemy	/ˈenəmi/noun [C] someone who is opposed to someone else and tries to harm them.
expansion	/ɪkˈspænz(ə)n/noun [U] an increase in size.
flash flood	/flæʃ flʌd/noun [C] a sudden unexpected flood.
forge	/fɔː(r)dʒ/verb [T] to shape heated metal, or to join a heated piece of metal to another one, by hammering or bending it.
furnace	/ˈfɜː(r)nɪs/noun [C] a large enclosed container in which fuel is burned. It is used for heating a building or for industrial processes such as melting metal.
goods	/gʊdz/noun [plural] objects that are produced for sale: <i>electrical goods: Wilkins was found in possession of £8,000 worth of stolen goods.</i>
heat	/hi:t/ verb [T] to make something hot.
historical	/hɪˈstɒrɪk(ə)/ adj connected with history or with the past: <i>The painting depicts an actual historical event.</i>
hunter-gatherer	/ˈhʌntə(r) ˈgæθərə(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
intermarry	/ˌɪntə(r)ˈmæri/ verb [I] to get married to someone who is from the same religion, race, or social group.
iron ore	/ˈaɪə(r)n ɔː(r)/ noun [U] rock that contains iron.
iron working	/ˈaɪə(r)n ˈwɜː(r)kɪŋ/ noun [U] the activity of making iron objects.
king	/kɪŋ/ noun [C] a man who rules a country and is the senior male member of the royal family
kingdom	/ˈkɪŋdəm/ noun [C] a country or area that is ruled by a king or queen
living	/ˈlɪvɪŋ/ noun [singular] money that you earn to live on: <i>Do you know how she earns her living?</i>
mourning	/ˈmɔː(r)nɪŋ/noun [U] expressions of sadness because someone has died.
myth	/mɪθ/ noun [C] an ancient traditional story about gods, magic, and heroes.
oral history	/ˈɔːrəl ˈhɪst(ə)rɪ/noun [C/U] spoken information about the past that is passed on to people in the present.
ornament	/ˈɔː(r)nəmənt/noun [C] a small attractive object that is used for decoration.
painting	/ˈpeɪntɪŋ/ noun [U] the activity of using paint to make a picture or cover a surface: <i>After retirement he took up painting.</i>
pass on	/pɑːs ɒn/ verb [I/T] to give someone something that someone else has given you.
pottery	/ˈpɒtəri/ noun [U] 1 objects such as plates and cups that are made out of baked clay 2 the activity of making pots.
pre-colonial	/priːkəˈləʊniəl/ adj. relating to the period of time before colonization of a region or territory.
queen	/kwi:n/ noun [C] a woman who belongs to a royal family and who rules a country.
raid	/reɪd/ noun [C] a sudden short military attack: <i>Soldiers carried out raids on enemy targets.</i>
relate	/rɪˈleɪt/ verb [T] formal to tell someone about something that has happened: <i>Philip began to relate the horrors of his childhood.</i>
release	/rɪˈliːs/ verb [T] to let a substance or energy spread into the area or atmosphere around it, especially as part of a chemical reaction: <i>Oxygen from the water is released into the atmosphere.</i>

responsibility	/rɪˌspɒnsəˈbɪləti/ noun [C/U] something that you have to do as a duty or a job: <i>She has a lot of responsibility as a nurse. One of his responsibilities is the welfare of the pupils.</i>
(in) return	/rɪˈtʃ:(r)n/ as a payment, exchange: <i>What can we do in return for your kindness?</i>
role	/rəʊl/ noun [C] the purpose or influence that someone or something has: <i>It's not my role to tell the politicians what to do.</i>
rule	/ˈru:l/ verb [I/T] to officially control a country or area: <i>Portugal ruled East Timor for nearly four centuries.</i>
sale	/seɪl/ noun [C/U] the process of selling goods or services for money: <i>a ban on the sale of arms.</i>
shoemaker	/ˈʃuːˌmeɪkə(r)/ noun [C] someone who makes shoes.
skill	/skɪl/ noun [C] facility that is developed through training or experience.
skilled	/skɪld/ adj skilful : <i>a skilled craftsman.</i>
smelt	/smelt/ verb [T] to heat and melt ore in a furnace, in order to remove the metal that it contains.
smith	/smɪθ/ noun [C] a metalworker, especially one who works metal when it is hot and malleable.
supply	/səˈplaɪ/ verb [T] to provide someone or something with something that they need or want: <i>They used the money to supply the school with new textbooks.</i>
surplus	/ˈsɜ:(r)ples/ noun [C/U] a larger amount of something than is necessary: <i>a surplus of oil.</i>
technique	/tekˈni:k/ noun [C] a method of doing something using a special skill that you have developed: <i>surgical techniques.</i>
tell story	/tel/ verb [T] if you tell a story or a joke, you give someone a spoken account of it: <i>Grandpa tells wonderful stories about the old days.</i>
time	/taɪm/ noun [U] the quantity that is measured in minutes, hours, days, years etc: <i>Einstein tried to define the relationship between space and time.</i>
trace back	/treɪs bæk/ verb [T] to discover the origin or cause of something: <i>They trace their ancestors back to an early clan.</i>
trade	/treɪd/ noun [U] the activity of buying and selling goods or services.
tradition	/trəˈdɪj(ə)n/ noun [C/U] a very old custom, belief, or story.
tribe	/traɪb/ noun [C] a large group of related families who live in the same area and share a common language, religion, and customs.
tribute	/ˈtrɪbjʊ:t/ noun [C/U] money or other things that one leader had to give to a more powerful leader.
warrior	/ˈwɒriə(r)/ noun [C] a soldier.
wealth	/welθ/ noun [U] a large amount of money or other valuable thing.
weapon	/ˈwepən/ noun [C] an object that can be used for hurting people or damaging property, for example a gun, knife, or bomb.
weave	/wi:v/ verb [I/T] to make cloth by crossing long threads over and under each other.

Key:

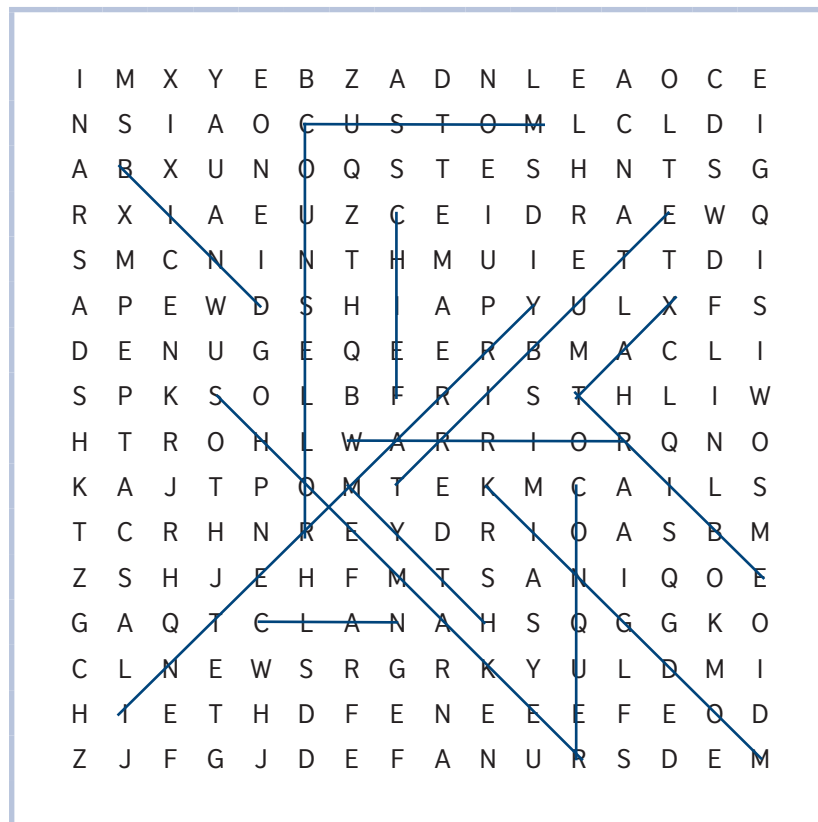
1. a) kingdom, b) chiefdoms, c) counsellors, d) tribute, e) colony, f) pre-colonial

2. **Responsibilities of chiefs:** land issues, grazing, army, protecting the country; **Characteristics of clans:** gave a feeling of belonging, people knew their rights and responsibilities, people from all social groups belonged, traded with each other, shared the same religion and culture, intermarried with each other, spoke the same language; **Social classes:** farmers, craftworkers (smiths, shoemakers, clothworkers), cattle-keepers, hunter-gatherers, warriors

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

4. a) customs, b) clothes, c) beliefs, d) behave, e) roles, f) binds, g) legends, h) related, i) oral

5.



6.

Farmers traded food crops with craftworkers in return for iron tools and craft objects.
Cattle-keepers traded cattle with farmers in return for food crops.
Craftworkers traded iron tools and craft objects with cattle-keepers in return for cattle.

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

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

9. **Across:** 3. smith, 4. smelt, 5. craftwork, 8. pottery, 9. goods; **Down:** 1. barter, 2. commerce, 3. supply, 6. weave, 7. forge