

# **Social Studies**

## **Topic 17: Agriculture**

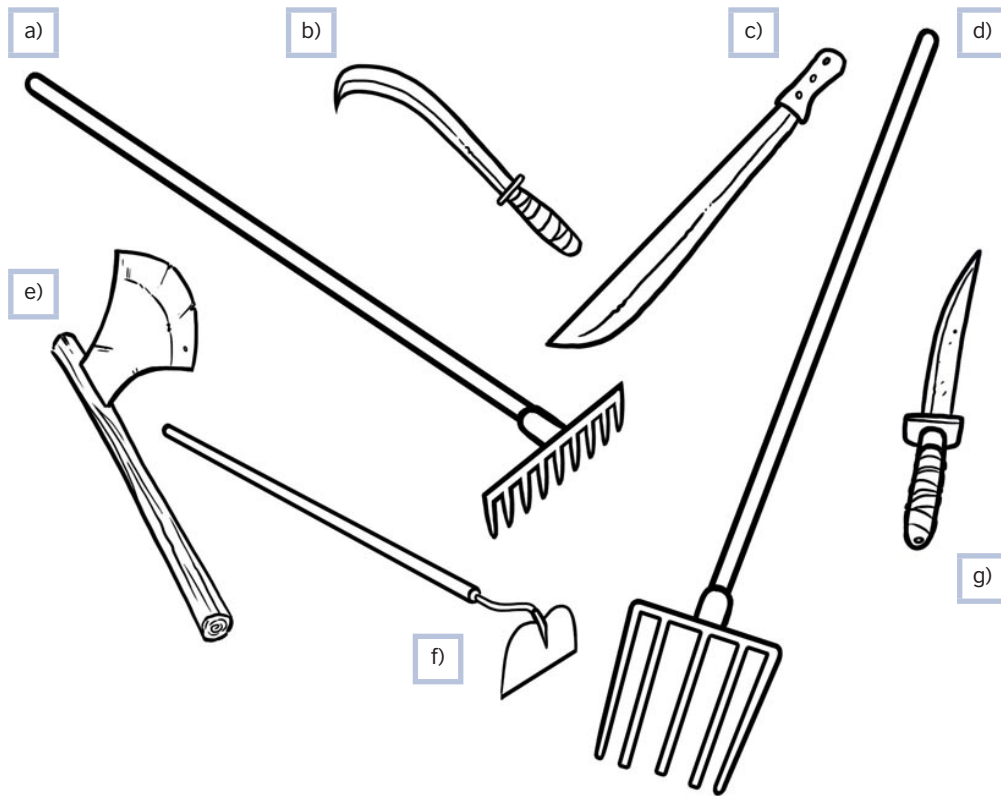
## Topic 17: Agriculture

1. Think of the correct word to fill the gaps in the sentences about **land**.



- a) Most people in Rwanda live in \_\_\_\_\_ areas. But more people are moving to towns.
- b) It is necessary to produce enough crops to \_\_\_\_\_ the people in urban areas.
- c) In the highlands, the land is mountainous; in the lowlands, it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) In the lowlands, people grow vegetables such as \_\_\_\_\_ and fruit such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) On the grasslands, people keep animals such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- f) They use the animals for their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- g) As the population increases, more land is cultivated and the soil is becoming \_\_\_\_\_.
- h) In the highlands, volcanic soils are rich in \_\_\_\_\_ and good for growing crops such as tea.
- i) Erosion can happen: the rain can \_\_\_\_\_ the soil away and the wind can \_\_\_\_\_ the soil away.
- j) People build \_\_\_\_\_ on the hillside to stop soil erosion.
- k) Erosion is also caused when people \_\_\_\_\_ trees.
- l) Farmers plant new trees so that their \_\_\_\_\_ prevent the soil from being eroded.

2. Name the **tools** shown below.



Write your answers here:

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

3. Use the words about **farming** below to practise saying what people use the tools for, for example *We use a hoe for weeding crops.*

Verbs	Nouns
sow	seed
weed	ground
hoe	bush
harvest	forest
harrow	crop
dig	weeds
cut	tree
cut down	bananas
clear	branch
rake	land
	field

Practise writing the sentences below:



4. Choose the correct words from the list to fill the gaps in the text about **agriculture (farming)**.

cultivate	rely	harvesting	livestock
subsistence	crops	plots	export

Some farmers in Rwanda practise <sup>a)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ farming. That means they are self-sufficient: they have small <sup>b)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and grow crops for their own use. They keep some <sup>c)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and slaughter the animals themselves. They do not use machinery and do not <sup>d)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ much on fertilisers and pesticides. They sell their <sup>e)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at the local market and buy things they need. Some farmers <sup>f)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ cash crops: they have bigger farms and produce crops that are processed and sold for <sup>g)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes they belong to a growers' association. The members of the association help each other with growing, <sup>h)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and marketing.

5. Put the crops from the grid below into categories for **subsistence or cash crops** in the table. Write the words under the correct heading.

beans	yams	sweet potatoes	tea
sorghum	pyrethrum	millet	groundnuts
cassava	coffee	bananas	maize
peas			

Subsistence	Cash crops
	

6. Use the words about **animals and animal products** below to make sentences.  
Practise speaking your sentences or write them in the box below.

We keep	pigs rabbits sheep chickens goats cows/cattle bees	for their	milk meat eggs skin honey beeswax	We use	milk meat eggs skin honey beeswax	to make	
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Write your sentences here:

7. Find the words about **farming** in the word search.

<p>S O L R A W C E E R W D I T Z O</p> <p>A R G M O N E X S F G Z Q A G E</p> <p>Y G L L O C L E E G D Z J H F E</p> <p>M I V A S R T C E D F E H E G K</p> <p>A U D T O O L V D L I H A F R H</p> <p>S M N I O P I Y X O P D G N I F</p> <p>C A L R G H S L E L Z V T L A W</p> <p>I T I F E A H T A L J G J N N M</p> <p>F Q D E T R A L R J J E I S C M</p> <p>H H B L I V E S T O C K O G H N</p> <p>O O H J I E M R C O E Q S A W S</p> <p>E E N T O S G U L L Q D C C I I</p> <p>M I L L E T J R P G M C L I H N</p> <p>W U C F E E D A O F H I O M I L</p> <p>C A T T L E T L A W B K G M H E</p> <p>S U B S I S T E N C E S E S C N</p>	<p>beehive</p> <p>cattle</p> <p>crop</p> <p>cultivate</p> <p>dig</p> <p>feed</p> <p>grow</p> <p>harvest</p> <p>hoe</p> <p>livestock</p> <p>millet</p> <p>root</p> <p>rural</p> <p>seed</p> <p>soil</p> <p>staple</p> <p>subsistence</p> <p>tool</p>
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8. Put the descriptions about **traditional and modern farming** into categories. Write the sentences in the correct table below.

- Fields are small.
- Farming involves large and expensive equipment.
- Plantations are very big.
- Only one crop is grown.
- People use hand tools.
- The crops are normally processed and sold overseas.
- People grow many different crops.
- Farmers use tractors with huge wheels.
- On terraces, people use hand-guided motorised cultivators.
- People grow crops to feed their families and to sell at the market.
- Farmers use pesticides and fertilisers.

Write your answers here:

**Modern farming**


Write your answers here:

**Traditional farming**




9. Make sentences about **traditional farming** by matching the beginnings and endings. Write your answers in the grid below.

a)	Farmers saved seed from each year's harvest	1	to buy the things they needed such as clothes.
b)	Because wealth was measured by the number of animals a man owned,	2	the family moved to fresh land in another area.
c)	Many different varieties of vegetables were grown	3	so that they had food throughout the year.
d)	Sometimes, instead of selling crops,	4	so they grew crops to feed their families throughout the year.
e)	When the soil was no longer fertile	5	they exchanged their products.
f)	Rwandan farmers practised subsistence agriculture	6	for planting the following season.
g)	They sold some crops and livestock	7	that were adapted to particular environments.
h)	They stored crops in granaries	8	animals were only eaten for special occasions.

Write your answers here:

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

10. Write sentences about **a farming family you know**.

<i>They live in...</i>
<i>They keep/breed...</i>
<i>They use...for...</i>
<i>They sell...</i>
<i>For their own use, they grow...</i>

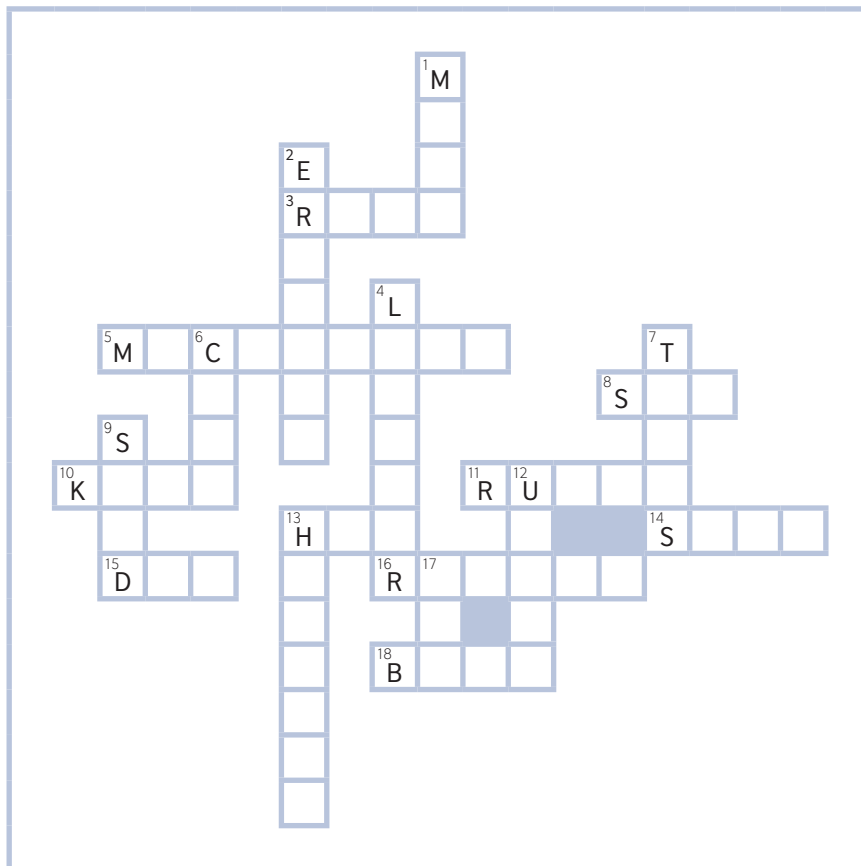
11. Complete the crossword by answering the following questions. All the correct answers are words about **agriculture**.

**Across**

3. The part of a plant that grows under the ground.
5. The large pieces of equipment that you need for a particular job (such as a tractor or cultivator).
8. To plant seeds in the ground.
10. To own animals and look after them.
11. Relating to the countryside.
13. A tool used to thin out or dig up weeds.
14. The layer of earth that you dig into when growing plants.
15. To make a hole in the soil using a spade.
16. A small, furry mammal with long ears, large teeth, and a short tail.
18. An edible seed, typically kidney-shaped, growing in long pods on certain leguminous plants.

**Down**

1. The flesh of an animal or bird that is eaten as food.
2. The process by which the surface of land or rock is gradually damaged by water and wind.
4. A strong material made from animal skin that is used for making shoes.
6. A plant that is grown for food.
7. Pieces of equipment that you use to do a particular type of work.
9. A small, hard part produced by a plant, that can grow into a new plant of the same type.
12. Relating to towns and cities.
13. To collect a crop from the fields.
17. A tool used for cutting wood.



## Glossary

adapt	/əˈdæpt/verb [T] to make something more suitable for a new use or situation.
agriculture	/ˈægrɪˌkʌltʃə(r)/noun [U] the work, business, or study of farming.
animal	/ˈænim(ə)l/noun [C] a living thing that is not a human, a plant, an insect, a bird, or a fish, for example a horse or a cat. lions, tigers, and other wild animals.
axe	/æks/ noun [C] a tool used for cutting wood, consisting of a long wooden handle and a heavy metal blade.
bag	/bæg/ noun [C] a container made of paper, plastic, or cloth, used for carrying or storing things: a plastic bag.
bean	/bi:n/ noun [C] a seed of various plants that is cooked and eaten, or a plant that produces these seeds.
bedding	/ˈbedɪŋ/ noun [U] sheets and covers that are used on beds.
bee	/bi:/ noun [C] a flying insect that has a black and yellow body and lives in groups
beehive	/ˈbiːˌhaɪv/ noun [C] a place in which bees live and make honey.
beeswax	/ˈbiːzˌwæks/ noun [U] a substance produced by bees that is used especially for making furniture polish.
billhook	/ˈbɪlˌhʊk/ noun [C] A tool with a sickle-shaped blade with a sharp inner edge, used for pruning or lopping branches or other vegetation.
blow away	/bləʊ əˈweɪ/ verb [I] if something blows away or is blown away, the wind moves it away from you until you cannot see or touch it.
breed	/bri:d/Verb [T] to reproduce and raise animals or plants for sale.
bush	/bʊʃ/noun [C] the bush [singular] wild areas in hot places like Australia and Africa that are not used for growing crops.
buy	/baɪ/ verb [I/T] to get something by paying money for it: I need to buy some clothes.
cash crop	/kæʃ kɹɒp/ noun [C] a crop that farmers grow so that they can sell it, rather than use it themselves.
cassava	/kəˈsɑːvə/ noun [U] a tropical plant with roots that can be cooked and eaten or made into flour.
cattle	/ˈkæt(ə)l/ noun [plural] cows and bulls that are kept by farmers for their milk or meat.
chicken	/ˈtʃɪkɪn/ noun [C] a bird that is kept for its eggs and meat.
clear	/kliə(r)/Verb [T] to remove people or things from a place, or to become empty when people leave or things are removed: Millions of acres of tropical forest have been cleared.
clothes	/kləʊðz/ noun [plural] shirts, dresses, trousers, and other things that people wear: a pile of dirty clothes. a clothes shop.
coffee	/ˈkɒfi/ noun [U] a hot brown drink made by pouring hot water over crushed beans: Would you like a cup of coffee?

container	/kən'teɪnə(r)/noun [C] something used for storing or keeping things in, for example a box, bottle, or bowl .
cow	/kaʊ/ noun [C] a mammal that is kept by farmers for its milk or meat.
crop	/krɒp/noun [C] a plant that is grown for food: They're all out planting the crops today.
cultivate	/'kʌltɪveɪt/ verb [T] to grow crops or other plants: Rice is cultivated throughout the coastal regions.
cultivator	/'kʌltɪ'veɪtə(r)/noun [C] a tool or machine that is used for breaking up soil.
cut	/kʌt/ verb [T] to use a knife or other sharp tool to divide something into pieces, or to remove a piece of something: I need a sharp knife to cut the bread with.
cut down	/kʌt daʊn/ verb [T] to cut through a tree and make it fall to the ground.
dig	/dɪg/verb [I/T] to make a hole in earth using a tool, a machine, or the hands: We dug a hole and planted the tree.
egg	/eg/noun [C] the round object with a shell that a baby bird, reptile etc develops inside. Many eggs have a yolk that contains food for the growing embryo: a hen's egg.
environment	/ɪn'vaɪrənmənt/noun the environment [singular] the natural world, including land, water, air, plants, and animals: What's the impact of chemical fertilizers on the environment?
equipment	/'kwɪpmənt/ noun [U] the tools, machines, or other things that you need for a particular job or activity: camping equipment .A computer is the most important piece of equipment you will buy.
erosion	/ɪ'reʊʒ(ə)n/ noun [U] the process by which the surface of land or rock is gradually damaged by the action of water, the wind, the sea, or glaciers: coastal erosion.
exchange	/ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ verb [T] to give someone something in return for something that they give you: We exchanged addresses and promised to write to one another.
exhaust	/ɪg'zɔːst/ verb [T] to use all that you have of something: The expedition was forced to turn back when it exhausted its food supply.
expensive	/ɪk'spensɪv/ adj something that is expensive costs a lot of money.
export	/'eksɒpɔː(r)t/ verb [I/T] to send a product to another country so that it can be sold there Their flowers are exported around the world.
farm	/fɑː(r)m/noun [C] an area of land that is used for growing crops or keeping animals.
farmer	/'fɑː(r)mə(r)/noun [C] someone who owns or manages a farm.
farming	/'fɑː(r)mɪŋ/ noun [U] the business of being a farmer.
feed	/fiːd/verb [T] to give food to a person or an animal: The leftover food is fed to the pigs.
fertile	/'fɜː(r)taɪl/adj fertile land is able to produce good crops or plants .
fertiliser	/'fɜː(r)təˌlaɪzə(r)/ noun [C/U] a substance that is added to soil in order to help plants grow.
field	/fiːld/ noun [C] an area of land that is used for keeping animals or growing food: a field of wheat.
flat	/flæt/adj smooth and level on the surface, with no lumps or slopes: The farmland is very flat.

food	/fu:d/noun [U] the process by which the surface of land or rock is gradually damaged by the action of water, the wind,: Prices of food and clothing have risen recently.
forest	/ˈfɒrɪst/ noun [C/U] a large area of land that is covered by trees and other plants growing close together.
fork	/fɔ:(r)k/ noun [C] a garden or farming tool that is used for breaking up soil, with a long handle and metal points on the end.
fruit	/fru:t/noun [C/U] a type of food that grows on a flowering plant, for example apples or oranges. A fruit usually contains a seed or some seeds: fruit and vegetables.
goat	/geʊt/ noun [C] a mammal similar to a sheep but with longer legs and a thinner coat.
granary	/ˈgrænəri/noun [C] a building where grain is kept.
grassland	/ˈgrɑ:s,lænd/noun [U] a large area of land where wild grass grows.
ground	/graʊnd/noun the layer of soil and rock that forms the Earth's surface: getting coal out of the ground . Plant roots grow downwards into the ground.
groundnut	/ˈgraʊnd,nət/ noun: A twining vine (genus Apios) of the pea family.
grow	/grəʊ/verb 1 [I] if plants grow somewhere, that is where they are found. 2 [T] if someone grows plants, they look after them and help them to develop They grew all their own vegetables. The country's largest rice-growing area.
hand-guided	/hænd ,gaɪdɪd/adj something which a person guides manually.
harrow	/ˈhærəʊ/vb draw a harrow over land.
harvest	/ˈhɑ:(r)vɪst/ noun [C] the activity of collecting a crop, or the time when crops are collected: the grape harvest.
harvest	/ˈhɑ:(r)vɪst/ verb [I/T] to collect a crop from the fields.
highlands	/ˈhaɪləndz/noun [plural] an area of land that consists of hills and mountains.
hillside	/ˈhɪl,sɑɪd/noun [C] the land on a hill below the top.
hive	/haɪv/ noun [C] a place in which bees live and make honey.
hoe	/həʊ/ noun [C] a tool with a long handle that is used for removing weeds (=plants that grow where they are not wanted) from the soil.
hoe	/həʊ/verb [T] Use a hoe to dig (earth) or thin out or dig up weeds.
honey	/ˈhʌni/noun [U] a sweet sticky yellow or brown food made by bees.
increase	verb [I/T] to become larger in number or amount, or to make something do this: The population has increased by 15 per cent.
involve	/ɪnˈvɒlv/verb [T] to include something as a necessary part of an activity, event, or situation: The course involves a lot of hard work. The job involved working with a team.
keep	/ki:p/ verb [T] to own animals and look after them: A few cows are kept to provide milk, cheese, and cream.
knife	/naɪf/ noun [C] an object with a blade, used for cutting things or as a weapon: knives and fork.

land	/lənd/ noun [U] an area of ground, especially one used for a particular purpose such as farming or building: The land around here is very fertile.
leather	/'leðə(r)/ noun [C] a strong material made from animal skin that is used for making shoes, clothes, bags etc: a black leather jacket.
livestock	/'laɪv, stɒk/ noun [plural] animals such as cows, sheep, and pigs that are kept on farms.
lowlands	/'ləʊləndz/ noun [plural] the part of a country that is fairly low and flat.
machete	/mə'ʃeti/ noun [C] a large knife that can be used as a weapon or a tool.
machinery	/mə'ʃi:nəri/ noun [U] machines: agricultural machinery.
maize	/meɪz/ noun [U] a tall plant that produces yellow seeds.
market	/'mɑ:(r)kɪt/ noun [C] a place, especially outside, where people sell goods: a vegetable market.
market	/'mɑ:(r)kɪt/ verb [T] to use advertising and other methods to persuade people to buy something.
meat	/mi:t/ noun [U] the flesh of an animal or bird that is eaten as food.
milk	/mɪlk/ noun [U] a white liquid that women and other female mammals produce to feed their babies.
millet	/'mɪlɪt/ noun [U] a type of grain grown for food.
motorised	/'mɒtəraɪzd/ verb [T] fitted with an engine.
nutrient	/'nju:triənt/ noun [C] a substance that all organisms need in order to live, grow, and be healthy. In animals, the nutrients are foods that contain energy, vitamins, and minerals. In plants, they are carbon dioxide, water, and mineral salts.
pea	/pi:/ noun [C] a small round green seed that grows in a long narrow pod. It is eaten as a vegetable.
pesticide	/'pestɪsaɪd/ noun [C/U] a chemical used for killing insects that damage crops
pig	/pɪɡ/ noun [C] a mammal with a curly tail and usually pink skin that is kept by farmers for its meat.
plant	/plɑ:nt/ noun [C] an organism that grows in soil or water and usually has green leaves.
plant	plɑ:nt/ verb [T] to put plants or seeds in soil so that they will grow there.
plantation	/plɑ:n'teɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] a large farm where crops such as tea, cotton, and sugar cane are grown.
plot	/plɒt/ noun [C] a piece of land that is used for a particular purpose: a burial plot.
population	/'pɒpjʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] the number of people who live in a particular area: Los Angeles has a population of over 3 million.
practise	/'præktɪs/ verb [T] to do something regularly or in a particular way: The earliest colonists seem to have practised farming.
process	/'prəʊses/ verb [T] to treat food or another substance with chemicals or machines.

produce	/prə'dju:s/verb [T] to make or grow something: The region produces some of the best wine in France.
pyrethrum	pī'rēTHrəm/ Noun An aromatic plant of the daisy family, typically having feathery foliage and brightly coloured flowers.
rabbit	/'ræbɪt/noun [C] a small furry mammal with long ears, large teeth, and a short tail
rake	/reɪk/noun [C] a tool for making soil level and for removing leaves etc from the ground. It has a long handle with a row of sharp points attached at one end.
rely	/rɪ'laɪ/to need something in order to continue living, existing, or operating: The museum relies on voluntary donations to stay open.
rich in	/rɪtʃ/adj containing a lot of substances that are good for growing plants: rich agricultural land.
root	/ru:t/ [C] the part of a plant that grows under the ground, through which the plant gets water and minerals, and where some plants store food: Olive trees have deep roots.
rural	/'rʊərəl/adj relating to the countryside, or in the countryside.
save	/seɪv/Verb [T] to keep or store something so that you can use it in the future: Save some energy for the end of the race.
seed	/si:d/noun [C/U] a usually small, hard part produced by a plant, that can grow into a new plant of the same type. The traditional method of sowing seeds (=putting them on or in the ground) is by hand.
self-sufficient	/self sə'fɪʃ(ə)nt/adj able to provide everything that you need for yourself, without help from other people.
sell	/sel/verb [T] to let someone have something in exchange for money: I sold Chris my old car.
sheep	/ʃi:p/ (plural sheep) noun [C] a mammal that is kept by farmers for its wool or meat.
skin	/skɪn/noun [C/U] 1 the outer layer of a vertebrate's body.
slaughter	/'slɔ:tə(r)/ verb [T] to kill animals, usually for their meat.
slope	/sləʊp/noun [C] a surface or piece of ground that has one end higher than the other: At the end of the garden there is a steep slope.
soil	/sɔɪl/noun [C/U] the top layer on the surface of the Earth in which plants grow.
sorghum	/'sɔ:(r)gəm/noun [U] plant that produces grain and grows mainly in tropical areas.
sow	/səʊ/verb [T] to plant seeds in the ground.
staple	/'steɪp(ə)/adj a staple food or product is a very basic and important one for a particular place or group of people.
steep	/sti:p/adj a steep slope goes up or down very quickly: a steep hill.
store	/stɔ:(r)/ verb [T] to keep something in a particular place: Store the cake in an airtight container.
subsistence	/səb'sɪstəns/subsistence farming noun [U] a type of farming in which people produce enough food for themselves to live on, but not enough to sell.
sweet potato	/swi:t pə'tetɪtəʊ/noun [C] a vegetable with a sweet taste that is the swollen root of the plant.

tea	/ti:/noun [U] An eastern Asian evergreen shrub or small tree ( <i>Camellia sinensis</i> ) having fragrant, nodding, cup-shaped white flowers and glossy leaves.
terrace	/'terəs/noun [C] A raised bank of earth having vertical or sloping sides and a flat top: turning a hillside into a series of ascending terraces for farming.
tool	/tu:l/noun [C] a piece of equipment that you hold to do a particular type of work: gardening tools.
town	/taʊn/noun [C] a place where people live and work that is larger than a village but smaller than a city: a small town. A town on the River Ganges.
tractor	/'træktə(r)/noun [C] a vehicle that is used on farms for pulling machines.
tree	/tri:/noun [C] a very tall plant that has branches and a thick woody trunk.
urban	/'ɜ:(r)bən/adj relating to towns and cities People moved to the urban areas for jobs.
variety	/və'raɪəti/noun [C] a group of plants that belongs to the same species.
vegetable	/'vedʒtəb(ə)/noun [C] a part of a plant used as food that is not usually sweet. Potatoes, beans, and cabbage are all vegetables.
volcanic	/vol'kænik/adj coming from, or relating to, a volcano: a layer of volcanic ash.
wash away	/wɒʃ ə'wei/verb [I] If water washes something away, it carries it away: Heavy rains have washed away the bridge.
wealth	/welθ/ noun [U] 1 a large amount of money and other valuable things: a man of immense wealth.
weed	/wi:d/verb [I/T] to remove weeds from the ground.
weed	/wi:d/noun [C] a wild plant that grows in a place where it is not wanted, and that blocks light or takes nutrients from other plants.
wheel	/wi:l/noun [C] a circular object that turns round in order to make a car, bicycle, or other vehicle move.
yam	/jæm/noun [C/U] a long vegetable that is the swollen root of a tropical vine. It has brown skin and white flesh.



## Key:

1. a) rural, b) feed, c) flat, d) cassava, maize, beans etc/ bananas etc, e) goats, cattle, etc, f) meat, milk, skin etc, g) exhausted, h) nutrients (minerals), i) wash/blow, j) terraces, k) cut down, l) roots

2. a) rake, b) billhook, c) machete, d) fork, e) axe, f) hoe, g) knife

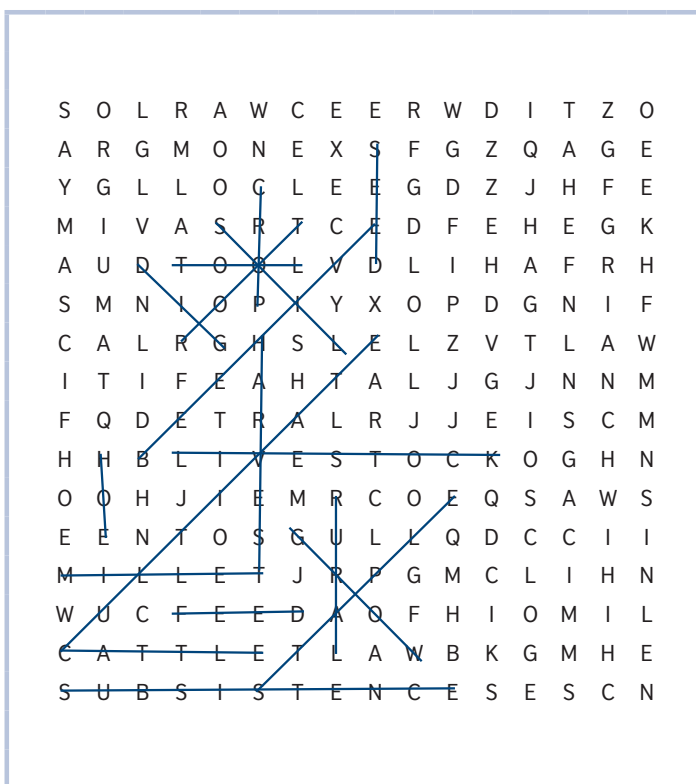
3. N/A

4. a) subsistence, b) plots, c) livestock, d) rely, e) crops, f) cultivate, g) export, h) harvesting

5. **normally cash crops:** beans, yams, sweet potatoes, sorghum, millet, cassava, peas; **normally subsistence crops:** tea, pyrethrum, coffee, bananas; **both:** maize, groundnuts

6. N/A

7.



8. **Modern farming:** b), c), d), f), h), i), k); **Traditional farming:** a), e), g), j)

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

10. N/A

11. **Across:** 3. root, 5. machinery, 8. sow, 10. keep, 11. rural, 13. hoe, 14. soil, 15. dig, 16. rabbit, 18. bean;  
**Down:** 1. meat, 2. erosion, 4. leather, 6. crop, 7. tools, 9. seed, 12. urban, 13. harvest, 17. axe