

Social Studies

Topic 14: Traditional Beliefs

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

| | | | |
|--------|---------|------------|---------|
| pray | haunt | slaughter | consult |
| soul | beliefs | sacrifices | creator |
| sacred | hell | worship | luck |

There are many Christians in Rwanda, as well as some Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and others. But Rwandese traditional ^{a)} _____ are still strong. Rwandans have traditionally always believed in one Supreme Being, called *Imana* who creates and preserves life. *Imana* has made the world and so is the ^{b)} _____ of all people and determines a person's destiny at birth. *Imana* controls the entire world, but he comes back to Rwanda every night to rest, as Rwanda is his home. It is said that "*Imana yirirwa ahandi igataha I Rwanda*", which means: God spends the rest of the day elsewhere but comes to Rwanda at every sunset.

When a human being dies, their ^{c)} _____ is transformed into one of the abazimu (the spirits of the dead). Abazimu leave our bodies to live in Ikuzimu beneath the earth. It is not a heaven or a ^{d)} _____. It is not a paradise or a punishment. Abazimu keep the name and personality of the person who has died and can return to ^{e)} _____ their own family homes as unseen spirits. Sometimes people build special huts for the spirits of their ancestors. However, people believe that abazimu can bring misfortune when they are troubled. They can bring bad ^{f)} _____, illness, poor harvests, and poverty. But they can also protect families. They only have this power over family members, so family members honour and ^{g)} _____ the abazimu in order to please them. Worship of abazimu consists of offering gifts or ^{h)} _____. These gifts could be small, such as a few drops of milk, beer, or beans. For more important times they are more substantial and the family may ⁱ⁾ _____ a goat or a bull. These larger sacrifices were accompanied with singing because abazimu can hear but not see. When they have difficulties, Rwandans may ^{j)} _____ an umupfumu or diviner who interprets the wishes of the abazimu and explains why they are angry and what can be done to pacify them. Over time, the abazimu of recently dead people become ^{k)} _____, honoured spirits, and families ^{l)} _____ to them. Ryangombe, a warrior and legendary hero, is said to be the King of the Spirits of the Dead.

2. Number the **events in the life of Ryangombe** in the right sequence.

1. Ryangombe swallowed the cattle at once.
2. When he was young, his father told him of the giant, Ntubugezi, who was known for killing people.
3. Wounded and dying, he lay in the shadow of the erythrina tree.
4. After his death, Imana gave Ryangombe and his followers an afterlife, on the summit of Karusimbi volcano, in the north-western part of Rwanda.
5. He made the giant give up eleven cattle.
6. He ate a whole ox immediately after his birth. This is why his name means 'ox-eater'.
7. During his later life on earth he led a life of great courage in the company of many friends and followers.
8. In the course of a hunting venture he was accidentally killed by a huge buffalo.
9. Ryangombe spoke before he was born.
10. Ryangombe at once went to the home of Ntubugezi, insulted and defied him.
11. Before he died, he declared that all Tutsi, Hutu, and Twa should worship him as the king of imandwa in a special ceremony called *Kubandwa*.

Write your answers here:

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

3. Match the names of **key figures in Rwandan traditional beliefs** with their English translations. Write your answers in the grid below.

| | | | |
|----|--------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| a) | Abacuraguzi | 1 | the creator |
| b) | Abagangahuzi | 2 | witches |
| c) | Abahennyi | 3 | a spirit who lives in Lake Kivu |
| d) | Abapfumu | 4 | enricher |
| e) | Abarozi | 5 | the father of all mankind |
| f) | Abashitsi | 6 | the world below the soil |
| g) | Abavubyi | 7 | rain makers |
| h) | Ikuzimu | 8 | a female spirit similar to Ryangombe |
| i) | Kazikamuntu | 9 | night dancers |
| j) | Mugasha | 10 | catcher of wrong doers |
| k) | Nyabingi | 11 | cursers |
| l) | Nyamuzinda | 12 | healers of lightning attacks |
| m) | Rugaba | 13 | the ruler of Ikuzimu |
| n) | Rugira | 14 | diviners |
| o) | Rurema | 15 | the giver |

| | | | |
|----|----------|----|-----------------|
| p) | Rwagisha | 16 | the eternal |
| q) | Uhoraho | 17 | the one who has |

Write your answers here:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| a) | b) | c) | d) | e) | f) | g) | h) | i) | j) | k) | l) | m) | n) | o) | p) | q) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

4. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences about **aspects of traditional beliefs in Rwanda**.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| a) | People | powers. | who have problems | who they believe | from fortune tellers | sometimes ask for help | have special |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | | |
| b) | Abapfumu | who consult | people and to prevent | diseases and bad luck. | are diviners | with the spirit world | to heal |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | | |
| c) | Healers | different plants | know about the properties of | and how they can be used | people. | and herbs | to cure |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | | |
| d) | Healers | local plants | to treat | use over one hundred | a variety | different types of | of common diseases. |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | | |
| e) | A taboo | cannot talk about. | by a particular religion | is something that | and that people | is not allowed | or culture |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| f) | Taboos | for pregnant | are sometimes useful, | carrying heavy loads | for example | is a taboo | women. |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | | |
| g) | Some taboos | for example sex | young people about sex | is a taboo subject | can cause many problems. | but not educating | are harmful, |
| Correct sentence: | | | | | | | |

5. Find the words about **religion and belief** in the word search.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>P P T I P M S S O G I I O C I X</p> <p>N W O R S H I P Q F P N K K H N</p> <p>D E D R L A H E I P O B Q O I Y</p> <p>L U C K A C C J A R E B E E Y I</p> <p>H Z G S U B G R C A I X R F T G</p> <p>R R E C G H E A I Y M T H U H F</p> <p>B U D D H I S T E F T F E G E X</p> <p>T W S I T R R F R L I A A I I O</p> <p>A L Q V E C I O U N E C L E H E</p> <p>B X S I R L I S D E C E E F I R</p> <p>O M U N R S N C T R B C R M E N</p> <p>O L T E U O O N D I S E A S E L</p> <p>J Q T R C H A U N T A P P S O M</p> <p>M F J Q L H E L L S M N Q H N E</p> <p>A F T F X P H M E A Z A E I T H</p> <p>S Q K F E S V U D H T T V B G K</p> | <p>afterlife</p> <p>belief</p> <p>Buddhist</p> <p>Christian</p> <p>consult</p> <p>disease</p> <p>diviner</p> <p>haunt</p> <p>healer</p> <p>hell</p> <p>luck</p> <p>pray</p> <p>sacrifice</p> <p>slaughter</p> <p>soul</p> <p>spirit</p> <p>taboo</p> <p>worship</p> |
|---|---|

6. Make sentences about **the celebration of Ryangombe** by matching the beginnings and endings. Write your answers in the grid below.

| | | | |
|----|---|---|--|
| a) | Ryangombe plays a large part | 1 | beat drums. |
| b) | The spirits of Ryangombe's followers | 2 | through intermediaries. |
| c) | After his death, Ryangombe talked to people | 3 | kubandwa and usually takes place at night. |

| | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| d) | Imandwa are dedicated to | 4 | live on the Karisimbi volcano. |
| e) | The ritual of initiation is known as | 5 | a festival to honour Ryangombe. |
| f) | Many young Rwandans | 6 | their spirit huts. |
| g) | In July, some places have | 7 | in our traditional beliefs. |
| h) | The Imandwa paint their faces and decorate | 8 | a sacred spear. |
| i) | Then they chant, dance, and | 9 | never to betray one another. |
| j) | One member dresses up as Ryangombe and carries | 10 | the worship of Ryangombe. |
| k) | During this ritual, people swear | 11 | become initiated to the cult of Ryangombe. |

Write your answers here:

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

7. Unscramble the letters to make words that fill the gaps in the sentences about **traditional beliefs**.

| | |
|------------|--|
| scratesno | Sometimes people used to erect special huts for the spirits of their a) _____. |
| kanndim | Imana is the father of all b) _____. |
| tluc | Many young Rwandans become initiated to the c) _____ of Ryangombe. |
| evindni | It was thought that Rwandan Kings were sacred beings whose power was partly d) _____. |
| draces | Over time, the abazimu of recently dead people become e) _____, honoured spirits. |
| iegnb | Rwandans have traditionally always believed in one supreme f) _____. |
| otoba | Carrying heavy loads is a g) _____ for pregnant women. |
| oonurh | Family members h) _____ and worship the abazimu in order to please them. |
| funterosmi | Abazimu can bring i) _____ when they are troubled. |
| flietrafe | After his death, Imana gave Ryangombe and his followers an j) _____. |

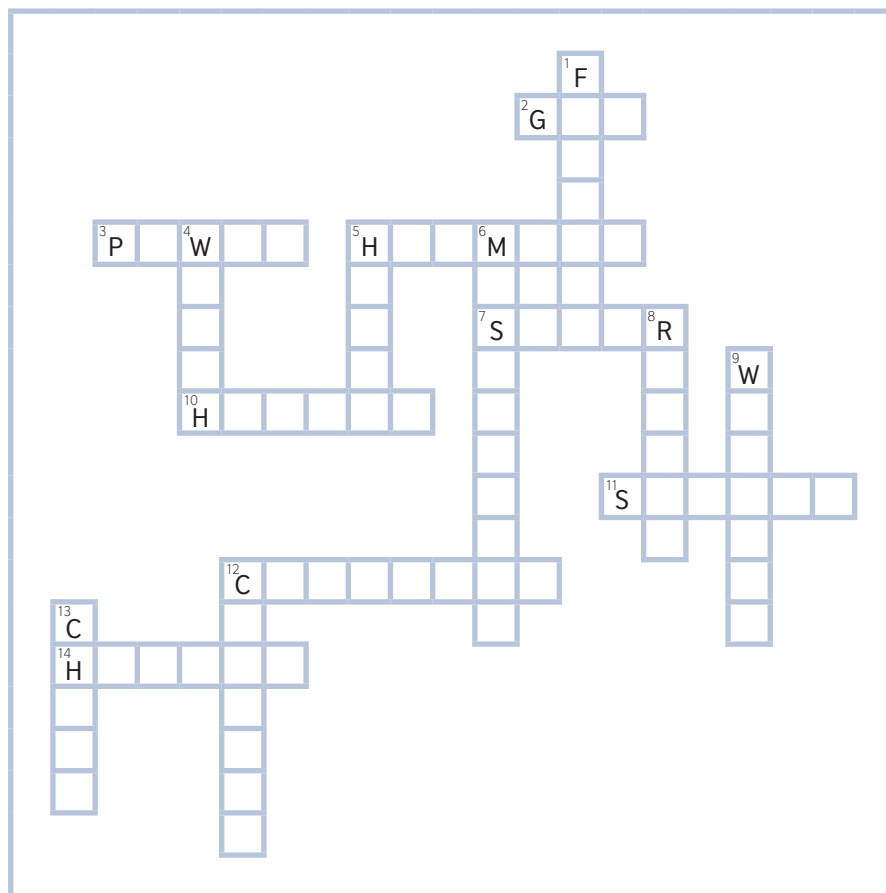
8. Complete the crossword by answering the following questions. All the correct answers are words about **traditional beliefs**.

Across

2. The spirit, being, or force that many people believe created and controls the universe.
3. A natural or unusual ability for doing something.
5. Causing harm.
7. To make a promise to do something.
10. To show your respect or admiration for someone.
11. Considered to be holy or connected with God.
12. The formal traditions, actions, or words used to celebrate a traditional or religious event.
14. The place where God is believed to live.

Down

1. Luck, especially good luck.
4. A woman in stories who has magic powers.
5. Someone whose religion is Hinduism.
6. Bad luck.
8. A formal ceremony.
9. A soldier, especially in the past.
13. To sing a piece of religious music using a very limited range of notes.



Glossary

| | |
|-----------|--|
| afterlife | /ˈɑːftə(r), laɪf/ noun [S] another life that some people believe begins after you die. |
| ancestor | /ˈænsəstə(r)/ noun [C] someone who is related to you who lived a long time ago: <i>Her ancestors went to America with the Pilgrims.</i> |
| being | /ˈbiːɪŋ/ noun [C] a spirit or god: <i>their belief in the supernatural beings that surrounded them.</i> |
| belief | /bɪˈliːf/ noun [C] [usually plural] an idea that you are certain is true, especially involving religion or politics: <i>Christian/Buddhist beliefs. our traditional beliefs about the origins of life.</i> |
| believe | /bɪˈliːv/ verb [T] to have a religious belief. |
| betray | /bɪˈtreɪ/ verb [T] if you betray someone, you are false or disloyal to them. |
| Buddhist | /ˈbʊdɪz/ adj of or relating to or supporting Buddhism: <i>a Buddhist temple.</i> |
| Buddhist | /ˈbʊdɪz/ noun [C] one who follows the teachings of Buddha. |
| ceremony | /ˈserəməni/ noun [U] the formal traditions, actions, or words used to celebrate a traditional or religious event: <i>They celebrated Easter with lavish ceremony.</i> |
| chant | /tʃɑːnt/ verb [T/I] to sing a piece of religious music using a very limited range of notes. |
| Christian | /ˈkrɪstjən/ adj relating to Christianity: <i>Christian beliefs. a Christian minister.</i> |
| Christian | /ˈkrɪstjən/ noun [C] someone whose religion is Christianity |
| consult | /kənˈsʌlt/ verb [T] to ask for information or advice from someone who has special knowledge about a particular subject: <i>Before going on a diet, it is advisable to consult your doctor.</i> |
| creator | /kriˈeɪtə(r)/ noun God. |
| cult | /kʌlt/ noun [C] a religious system in which people worship a particular god, person, or object: <i>the cult of the goddess Isis.</i> |
| cure | /kjʊə(r)/ verb [T] to stop someone from being affected by an illness: <i>It might be several months before she's fully cured.</i> |
| curse | /kɜː(r)s/ verb [T] to use magic powers to make bad things happen to someone: <i>put a curse on someone.</i> |
| decorate | /ˈdekəreɪt/ verb [I/T] to put paint or paper on the walls of a room: <i>We decorated the kitchen last weekend.</i> |
| descend | /dɪˈsend/ verb [I] to get down from (of a god, from heaven). |
| destiny | /ˈdestəni/ noun [U] a mysterious power that some people believe controls everything that happens: <i>We don't know what destiny has planned for us.</i> |
| divine | /dɪˈvaɪn/ verb to foretell or know something using supernatural powers. |
| divine | /dɪˈvaɪn/ adj relating to a god or God, or sent by a god or God. |

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| diviner | /di'vaɪnə(r)/ noun [C] someone who claims to discover hidden knowledge with the aid of supernatural powers. |
| earth | /ɜ:(r)θ/ noun the land on which we live: <i>They felt the earth shaking beneath their feet.</i> |
| enrich | /ɪn'ri:tʃ/ verb [T] to make something better or more enjoyable: <i>Doing volunteer work has enriched my life.</i> |
| erythrina | /eriθr i:nə/ noun [C] genus of leguminous plants growing in the tropics; coral tree; - so called from its red flowers. |
| eternal | /ɪ'tɜ:(r)n(ə)l/ adj continuing for ever or for a very long time: <i>the promise of eternal life/youth/friendship.</i> |
| female | /'fi:meɪl/ adj a female person or animal belongs to the sex that can produce babies or eggs. |
| festival | /'festɪv(ə)l/ noun [C] a day or period when there is a public holiday, often to celebrate a religious event: <i>Religious festivals are held throughout the year.</i> |
| follower | /'fɒləʊə(r)/ noun [C] someone who supports and travels with an important person such as a military or political leader: <i>The king escaped the country with 50 of his followers.</i> |
| fortune | /'fɔ:(r)tʃən/ noun [U] luck, especially good luck: <i>It was his good fortune to take over the company at exactly the right time.</i> |
| giant | /'dʒaɪənt/ noun [C] an imaginary person in stories, who is extremely tall, strong, and often evil. |
| god | /ɡɒd/ the spirit, being, or force that many people believe created and controls the universe, especially the god of the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religions: <i>Do you believe in God?</i> |
| harmful | /'hɑ:(r)mf(ə)l/ adj causing harm: <i>harmful effects/consequences.</i> |
| harvest n | /'hɑ:(r)vɪst/ noun [C] the activity of collecting a crop: <i>the corn/potato/grape harvest</i> |
| haunt | /hɑ:nt/ verb [T] if a place is haunted by the spirit of a dead person, some people believe that it appears there: <i>They say the prison is haunted by the ghosts of the men who died there.</i> |
| heal | /hi:l/ verb [I/T] to make someone healthy again after they have been ill, especially by using methods other than medicine: <i>The body will heal itself if given the chance.</i> |
| healer | /'hi:lə(r)/ noun [C] someone who is believed to be able to cure people who are ill, using special powers. |
| heaven | /'hev(ə)n/ noun [U] the place where God is believed to live. Some people believe that good people go to Heaven when they die and bad people go to Hell: <i>Christians believe that Jesus ascended into Heaven.</i> |
| hell | /hel/ noun [U] Hell in some religions, the place where bad people are sent to suffer for ever when they die. The place where good people are believed to go is called Heaven. |
| herb | /hɜ:(r)b/ noun [C] a plant used for adding flavour to food or as a medicine. |
| Hindu | /,hɪn'du:/ adj relating to Hinduism, Hindus, or India: <i>a Hindu festival.</i> |
| Hindu | /,hɪn'du:/ noun [C] someone whose religion is Hinduism. |

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| honour | /ˈɒnə(r)/ verb [T] to show your respect or admiration for someone, especially by giving them a prize or a title, or by praising them publicly: <i>She will be honoured for her work in promoting friendship between the two countries.</i> |
| 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.</i> |
| hut | /hʌt/ noun [C] a small simple shelter: <i>a village of stone huts. a beach hut</i> |
| initiate | /ɪˈnɪʃieɪt/ verb [T] to introduce someone to a skill, subject, or activity and teach them about it: <i>Nicky was initiated into a world of robbery and violence.</i> |
| initiation | /ɪˌnɪʃiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C/U] a process or ceremony in which someone becomes a member of an organization or group: <i>initiation rites/rituals/ceremonies.</i> |
| intermediary | /ˌɪntə(r)ˈmiːdiəri/ noun [C] someone who talks to each of the people or groups that are involved in something, in order to help them to agree about it. |
| interpret | /ɪnˈtɜː(r)pɪt/ verb [T] to understand an action, situation etc in a particular way: <i>This move was interpreted in two ways.</i> |
| luck | /lʌk/ noun [U] an influence that seems to make things, especially good things, happen to people for no particular reason: <i>There was an element of luck in the last goal. He's had nothing but bad luck since moving to New York.</i> |
| male | /meɪl/ adj belonging to the sex that does not give birth: <i>male colleagues/ counterparts/workers. a male elephant.</i> |
| mankind | /mænˈkaɪnd/ noun [U] all humans considered as a single group. Some people avoid using this word because they think it is offensive to women, and they use humankind instead. |
| misfortune | /mɪsˈfɔː(r)tʃ(ə)n/ noun [U] bad luck: <i>The family was plagued by misfortune.</i> |
| Muslim | /ˈmʊzləm/ adj of or relating to Islam, its doctrines, culture, etc. |
| Muslim | /ˈmʊzləm/ noun [C] someone whose religion is Islam. |
| ox | /ɒks/ noun [C] a bull that has had its testicles removed. |
| pacify | /ˈpæsɪfaɪ/ verb [T] to make someone who is angry, worried, or upset feel calmer or happier: <i>The statement was clearly intended to pacify worried consumers.</i> |
| paradise | /ˈpærədaɪs/ noun [U] the place where some people believe you go when you die if you have lived a good life. |
| power | /ˈpaʊə(r)/ noun [C/U] a natural or unusual ability for doing something: <i>Some people believed Rashad had the power to perform miracles.</i> |
| pray | /preɪ/ verb [I/T] to speak to God or a saint, for example to give thanks or ask for help: <i>They prayed for peace. He prayed to God to save him.</i> |
| pregnant | /ˈpregnənt/ adj if a woman is pregnant, she has a baby developing inside her body: <i>You should not smoke if you are pregnant. I was eight months pregnant at the time.</i> |
| property | /ˈprɒpə(r)ti/ noun [C] [often plural] a quality or feature of something: <i>The water is said to have healing properties.</i> |
| protect | /prəˈtekt/ 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?</i> |
| punishment | /ˈpʌnɪʃmənt/ noun [U] the process of inflicting a penalty on someone: <i>He has cheated people and escaped punishment.</i> |
| ritual | /ˈrɪtʃuəl/ noun [C/U] a formal ceremony. |

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|---------------|--|
| sacred | /ˈseɪkrɪd/ adj considered to be holy or connected with God in a special way: <i>Jerusalem is sacred to Christians, Muslims, and Jews.sacred ground.</i> |
| sacrifice | /ˈsækrɪfaɪs/ noun [C/U] the act of killing a person or animal as part of a ceremony to honour a god or spirit: <i>Animal sacrifice is an important ritual in this religion.</i> |
| sex | /seks/ noun [only before noun] relating to or involving sexual activity: <i>a sex partner.sex education.</i> |
| slaughter | /ˈslɔ:tə(r)/ noun [U] the killing of animals, usually for their meat: <i>The cattle were being sent for slaughter.</i> |
| soul | /səʊl/ noun [C] the spiritual part of a person that most religions believe continues to exist after their body dies. |
| spirit | /ˈspɪrɪt/ noun [C] the part of a person that many people believe continues to exist after death: <i>His spirit will always be with us.</i> |
| spirit | /ˈspɪrɪt/ noun [C] a dead person who comes back into the world |
| summit | /ˈsʌmɪt/ noun [C] the top of a mountain: <i>They camped about 1,000 feet from the summit.</i> |
| supreme being | /sʊˈpri:m ˈbi:ɪŋ/ noun [singular] God. |
| swallow | /ˈswɒləʊ/ verb [T] to believe something that is unlikely to be true: <i>I found the film's ending a bit hard to swallow.</i> |
| swear | /swɛə(r)/ verb [T] to make a promise to do something: <i>You swore that you would never see her again.He swore to stay out of politics when he retired.</i> |
| taboo | /təˈbu: / noun [U] the system in some religions in which certain actions must not be done and certain objects must not be touched for religious or social reasons. |
| tell | /tel/ verb [T] to make something known: <i>she told people's fortunes.</i> |
| traditional | /trəˈdɪʃ(ə)nəl/ adj relating to or based on very old customs, beliefs, or stories: <i>All the dancers and musicians wore traditional costumes.traditional Mediterranean cooking.</i> |
| treat | /tri:t/ verb [T] [often passive] to use medicine or medical methods to cure a patient or an illness: <i>Vitamin deficiency can be properly diagnosed and treated by a doctor.</i> |
| warrior | /ˈwɒrɪə(r)/ noun [C] a soldier, especially in the past. |
| wish | /wɪʃ/ noun [C] something that you hope will happen by magic or by the power of your mind: <i>Make a wish and then blow out the candles.</i> |
| witch | /wɪtʃ/ noun [C] a woman in stories who has magic powers. |
| worship | /ˈwɜ:(r)ʃɪp/ noun [U] the activity of showing respect and love for a god, for example by singing or praying: <i>The building has been a place of worship since the eighth century.</i> |
| worship | /ˈwɜ:(r)ʃɪp/ verb [I/T] to feel or show respect and love for a god: <i>The prisoners were not allowed to worship their own god.The whole family worshipped at St Jude's church every Sunday.</i> |
| wounded | /ˈwu:ndɪd/ adj injured, especially with a cut in your flesh: <i>He could barely move his wounded arm.The wounded men were taken to hospital.</i> |
| wrong-doer | /rɒŋˈdu:ə(r)/ noun [C] one who does wrong, especially morally or ethically. |

Key:

1. a) beliefs, b) creator, c) soul, d) hell, e) haunt, f) luck, g) worship, h) sacrifices, i) slaughter, j) consult, k) sacred, l) pray

2. a) 6, b) 3, c) 9, d) 11, e) 5, f) 2, g) 7, h) 8, i) 1, j) 4, k) 10

3. a) 15, b) 5, c) 10, d) 16, e) 9, f) 8, g) 7, h) 11, i) 1, j) 6, k) 3, l) 2, m) 12, n) 4, o) 13, p) 17, q) 14

4.

a) People who have problems sometimes ask for help from fortune tellers who they believe have special powers.

b) Abapfumu are diviners who consult with the spirit world to heal people and to prevent diseases and bad luck.

c) Healers know about the properties of different plants and herbs and how they can be used to cure people.

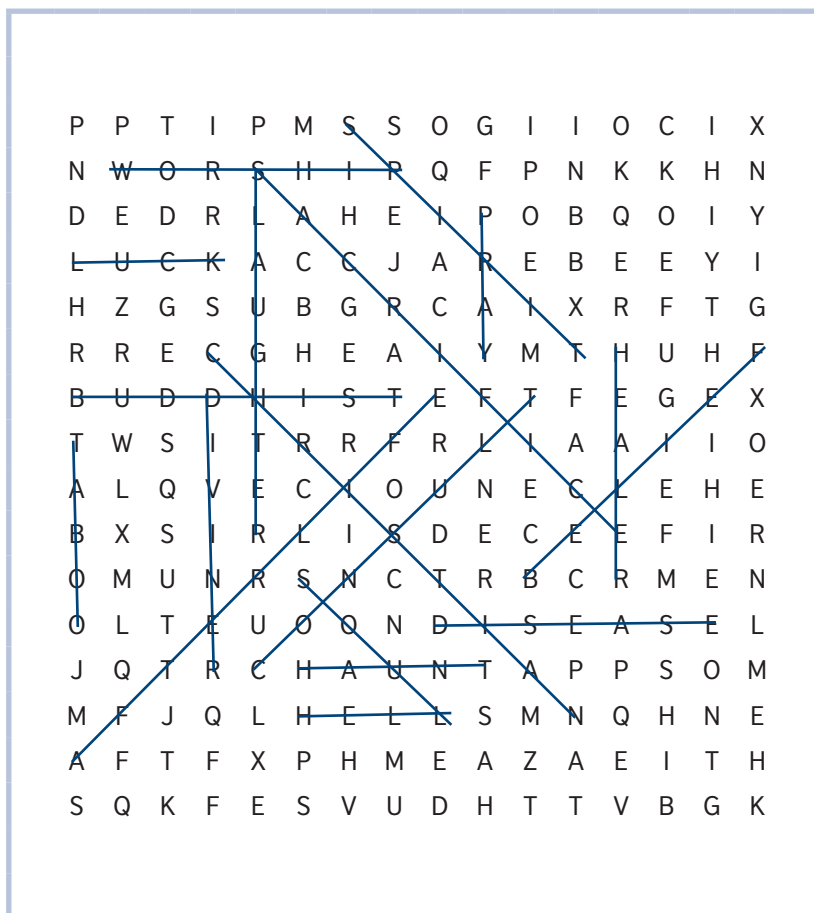
d) Healers use over one hundred different types of local plants and herbs to treat a variety of common diseases.

e) A taboo is something that is not allowed by a particular religion or culture and that people cannot talk about.

f) Taboos are sometimes useful, for example carrying heavy loads is a taboo for pregnant women.

g) Some taboos are harmful, for example sex is a taboo subject but not educating young people about sex can cause many problems.

5.



6. 1 g), 2 d), 3 b), 4 j), 5 c), 6 k), 7 e), 8 f), 9 a), 10 h), 11 i)

7. a) ancestors, b) mankind, c) cult, d) divine, e) sacred, f) being, g) taboo, h) honour, i) misfortune, j) afterlife

8. **Across:** 2. god, 3. power, 5. harmful, 7. swear, 10. honour, 11. sacred, 12. ceremony, 14. heaven;

Down: 1. fortune, 4. witch, 5. Hindu, 8. ritual, 9. warrior, 13. chant