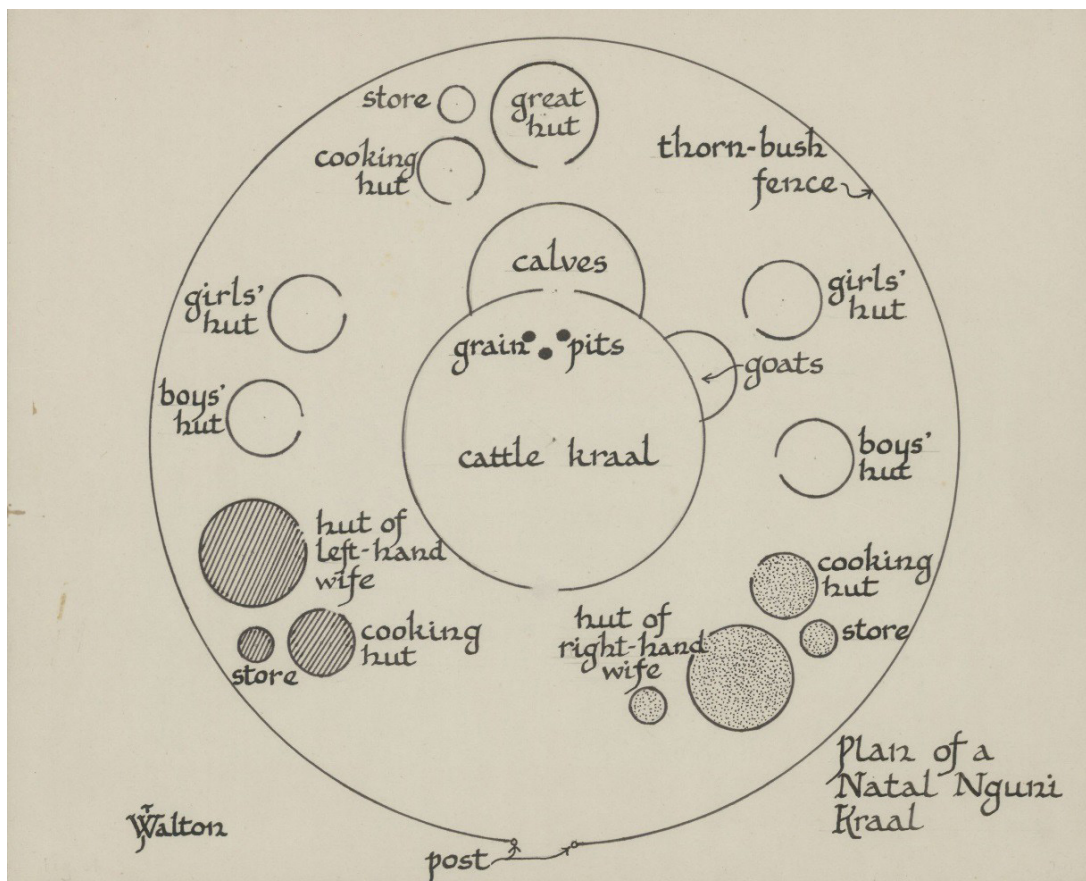


The culture of the communities

Name: _____



During the Iron Age, the extended family was an important part of society. People did not move around very much; families were large and children had parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents all living very close to one another. As a result, the division of labour was clearly marked.

The men took the job of looking after the cattle and fighting off raiders and predators. The men were also skilled carvers and they made tools out of iron. They were skilled hunters and used assegais and knobkerries to hunt game. The men built houses and took part in politics and public affairs. The boys helped their fathers with the cattle and building huts.



They learned fighting skills through stick-fighting games. The boys had to be initiated before they could become adults.

They had to survive on their own in the veld for three or four months.

The women were expert weavers and basket makers. They also tended the crops that the family had planted. They fetched water and firewood. They gathered food such as wild fruit and berries, shrubs and herbal plants, and made beer from the fruit of the marula tree. They also cooked the food and cared for the children. The women made pottery for cooking and storing food. The girls helped their mothers with chores around the home during initiation. The girls were separated from the rest of the tribe when they were thirteen for their initiation, which lasted a week.

The chief had an important role preventing conflict, solving arguments and distributing the land to the members of the community. Often it was the wealthiest man who became the chief. He was supported by a council of elders and warriors who protected the land, crops and the people. The chief made the decisions for the people. The council of elders made sure the chief took into account the needs of the people and that he had heard everybody's opinions before making a decision.

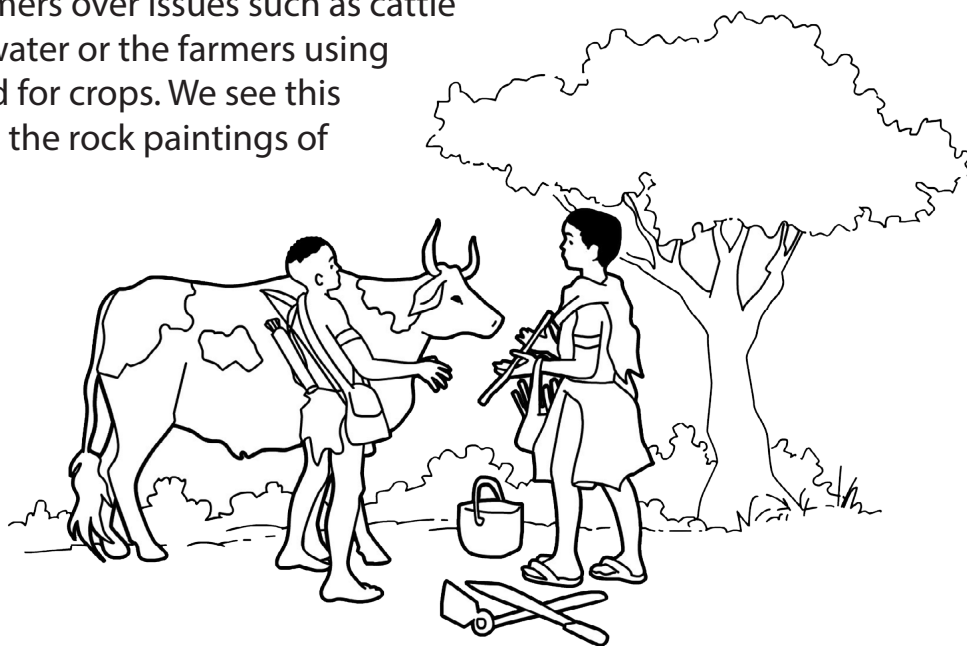
Traditional healers also had a very important role in the community. They would treat the sick, communicate with the ancestors and pray for the welfare of the community, for example, asking for rain, or good harvests. They also knew which plants had medicinal properties for different ailments. They would always treat the mind and body of the ill and had to be specially trained for the honour of being a healer.

The spirit of Ubuntu was very much a part of the culture of the Southern African farmers and they regularly traded with the San and Khoi-khoi.

Slowly over time, the African farmers married into the San and the Khoi-khoi tribes. The 'click' sounds that are so prevalent in the San and Khoikhoi languages were also integrated into Zulu and Xhosa.

Sometimes there was conflict between the San, Khoikhoi and the early African farmers over issues such as cattle drinking too much water or the farmers using too much of the land for crops. We see this conflict illustrated in the rock paintings of the San.

Sometimes, this was resolved by the San and the Khoikhoi bartering with the farmers.



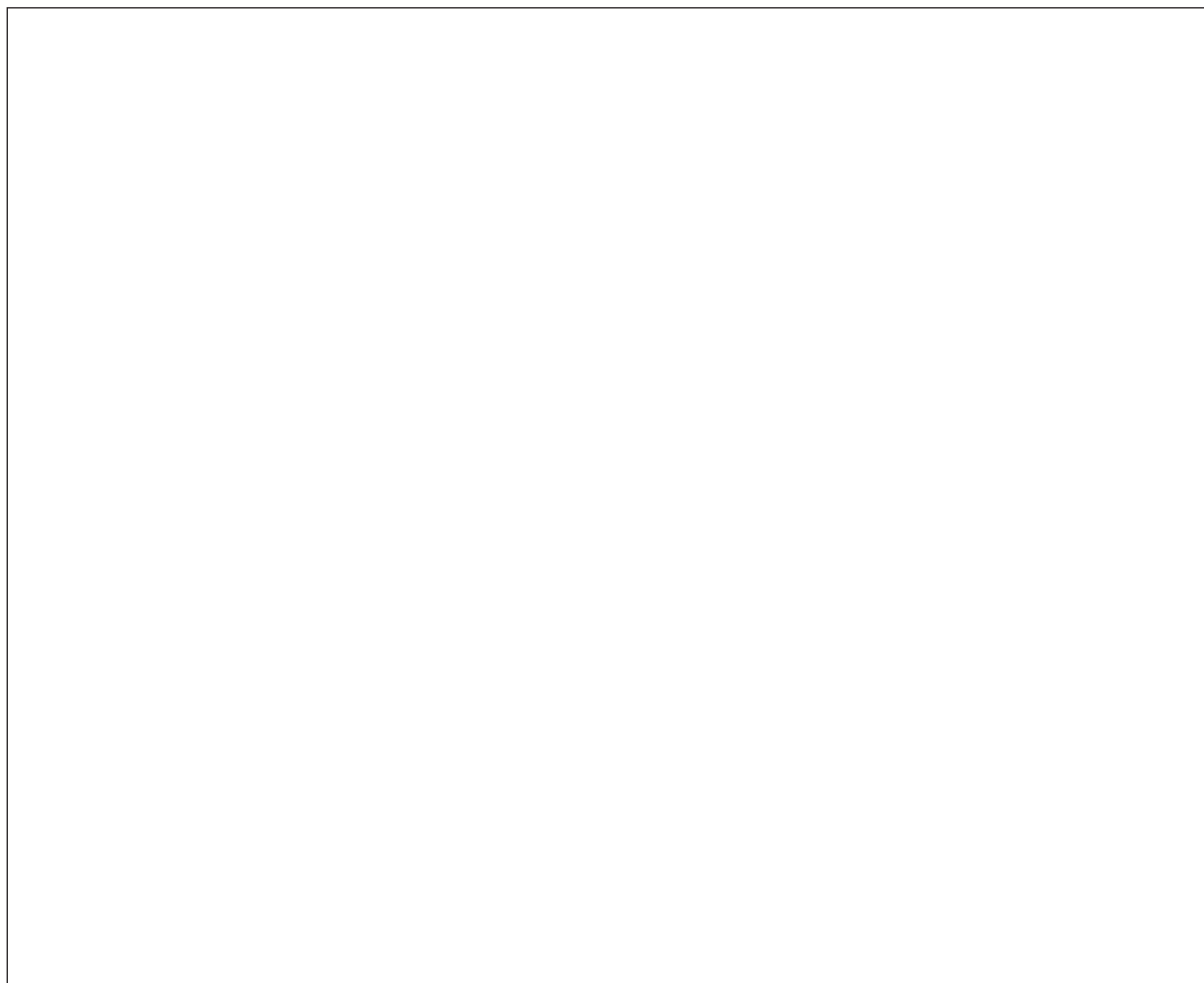
1. What is Ubuntu? (2)

2. What does the traditional healer do? (3)

3. Which languages get their clicks from the San languages? (2)

4. What does the chief do? (3)

5. In the space below, draw a mindmap of the culture of the Southern African Farmers: (10 marks)



Diary Entry: (10 marks)

Imagine yourself as a member of the Southern African farming community of the Iron Age.

- What would your role be?
- Would you like to do something other than what your gender is supposed to do?

Write a diary entry as a member of the Southern African farming community and talk about your daily life, what you enjoy, dislike, and how you are important in the running of the farming life.

Your diary entry needs to be between 80 to 100 words in length.

Total: 30 marks

Memorandum

1. What is Ubuntu? (2)
A quality that includes the essential human virtues; compassion and humanity.
2. What does the traditional healer do? (3)
They would treat the sick, communicate with the ancestors and pray for the welfare of the community.
3. Which languages get their clicks from the San languages? (2)
Zulu and Xhosa
4. What does the chief do? (3)
The chief had an important role preventing conflict, solving arguments and distributing the land to the members of the community.
5. In the space below, draw a mindmap of the culture of the Southern African Farmers: (10 marks)
Learner's answer.

Diary Entry: (10 marks)

Learner's answer.