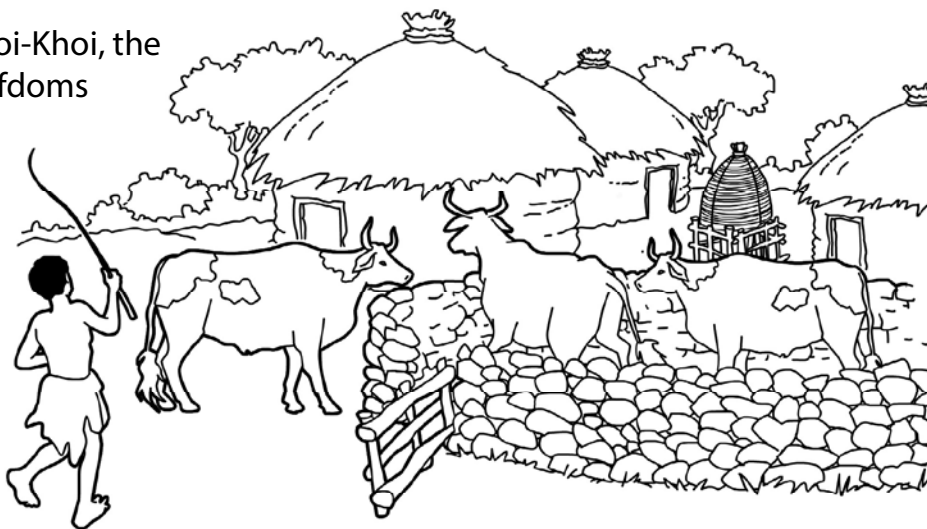


# How did they live?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As with other indigenous groups, the first farmers were also a patriarchal society, meaning that men were the rulers and chiefs. These people lived in chiefdoms and lived according to specific roles and positions in society.

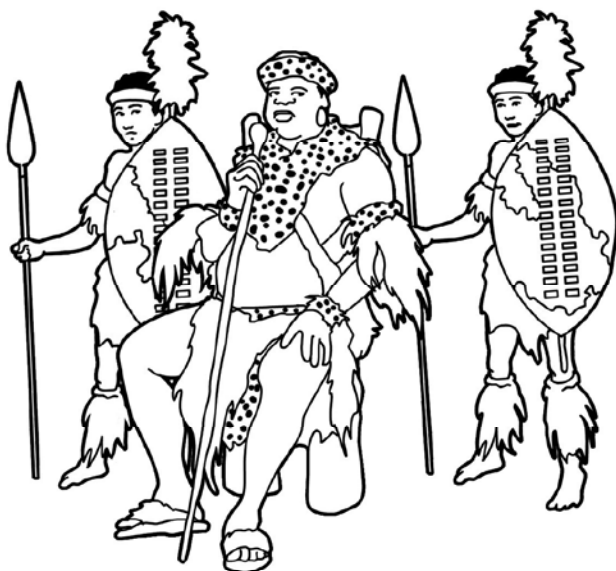
Unlike the San or Khoi-Khoi, the Farmers lived in chiefdoms where there was an autocracy where the chief made all the big decisions. The chief would give every family in the group a piece of land to work based on their position in the society, and men and women



would have very specific roles, for example the men would hunt and look after the livestock, and the women would work the land and farm.

The first farmers were subsistence farmers, which means that they only grew and reared what they needed to survive. They also hunted occasionally, but their main sources of meat were from their own livestock which included cattle, goats and sheep.

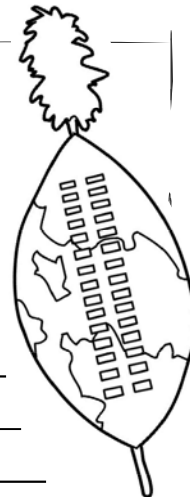
A few families would live in a kraal, and a chiefdom would be made up of a few kraals.



The places where the farmers settled would often be near bodies of water, such as rivers, and in this way, guaranteed that the livestock, farms and the chiefdom would have enough water.

These areas were never permanent settlements for the farmers. As time went on, grazing areas for the cattle would decrease, and the soils would become less fertile with over-farming, causing a semi-nomadic existence for the farmers.

**Write down all the words from the text with which you are unfamiliar, look them up in your dictionary and write down their definitions below:**




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**Answer the questions below:**

1. In your own words, describe the leadership found in the first farmers' communities. (2)

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2. What were the roles of the men in the First Farmer community? (3)

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3. What were the roles of the women in the First Farmer community? (2)

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4. Why were the first farmers semi-nomadic? (2)

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**True or False?**

**Answer the following questions with either true or false, and explain your answer:**

1. In the First Farmer society, women reared cattle.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_
2. The first farmers always lived near bodies of water.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_
3. The first farmers would move with the seasons.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_
4. The first farmers hunted for all their meat requirements.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Cattle were very important to the first farmers.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_
6. The first farmers were subsistence farmers and grew as many crops as possible to trade with the Khoi-Khoi and San.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_
7. The first farmers were a patriarchal society.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_
8. The first farmers lived in kraals.  
**true or false** \_\_\_\_\_

