You **DO NOT** need your textbook. (If you want to check, go to pages 118 and 119)

The chief was the most important person in the community because people believed that he was closer to the ancestors than ordinary people and he looked after his people. He was always the wealthiest man with the most cattle. The chief was in charge of his community and had many different roles.

Below are some of the duties he performed:
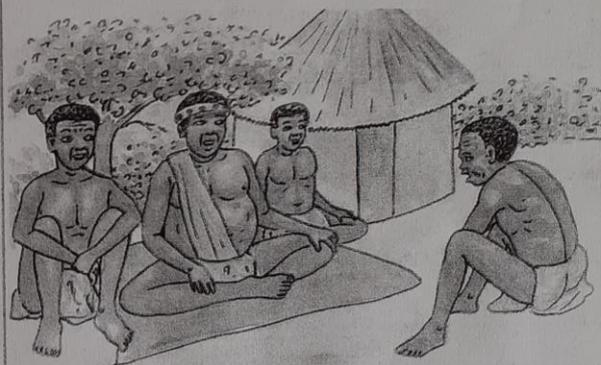
1. Chiefs controlled land, animals and food.

2. They invited people to join the clan or community.

3. They punished people for bad behaviour.

4. They helped families solve problems.

5. They decided if the men should go to war.

6. They were an important part of ceremonies.

The **chief** would control the community's trade with outsiders as well as ensure goods were distributed amongst the community to benefit all. Chiefs often demanded tax which was paid to him for living under his protection.

The chiefs *kgotla* was the meeting place where people from the village met. It was the chief's homestead between the households of his wives and his cattle kraal. The chief's cattle enclosure could hold about 500 head of cattle. The *kgotla* was very large so that all the men of the village could attend the meetings. The older men were leaders who helped the chief to settle arguments between people.

The chief was always the wealthiest man with the most cattle. Wrongdoers had to appear before his court. If they were found guilty, they would pay a fine which had to be paid in cattle. The chief also obtained cattle from raids on other chiefdoms.

Activity – answer these questions

1. Write down THREE duties that the chief had or that he performed in the early African farming communities.
2. Which duty performed by the chief do YOU think was the MOST important? Why?
3. Write down THREE ways in which the chief was able to get more cattle.
4. Write down TWO leadership qualities that the chief needed and explain why he needed each one.