

UNILINEAL DESCENT GROUPS

LINEAGE: Members of a unilineal kinship group who can demonstrate descent from each other and from a common ancestor.

CLAN: Members of a unilineal kinship group who stipulate descent from a common ancestor, often a mythical being.

PHRATRY: A unilineal descent group composed of two or more clans that claim to be related by kinship.

MOIETY: Each group that results from a division of a society into two halves on the basis of descent.

The diagram below shows how lineages, clans, phratries, and moieties form an organizational hierarchy. Each moiety is subdivided into phratries, each phratry is subdivided into clans, and each clan is subdivided into lineages.

