

Aryan Civilization / The Vedic Age

- By 1500 BC. Nomadic Aryans arrived in India one centuries with herds of Cattle + Horses from modern day So. Russia. Became new settlers of India
- Early Settles built no cities, + left behind very little archaeological evidence
- Most knowledge of them comes from the Vedas
 - ↳ Hymns, Chants, Ritual instructions and other Religious teachings
- Vedas were oral traditions for 1,000 years before recorded 1500 B.C. to 500 B.C. known as the Vedic Age
 - ↳ In the vedas they appear as warriors who fought in chariots w/ Bows + Arrows. Loved food, drink, music, Chariot Races + dice games
- Nomadic herders valued Cattle for food + Clothing (later became farmers + measured their wealth in Bulls + Cattle)
- Aryans mingled with those they conquered
- Over time, became farmers + domesticated cattle
- Spread east colonizing the forest around the Ganges River basin
- By 800 BC learned to make tools of Iron (Axes + weapons) established farms + villages in this Rainforest (Ganges)
- Tribes were led by Chieftains called Rajas (most skilled warriors leaders)
- Councilled advice from elders made up of heads of family

Structure of society

- From the vedas divided society into Ranked Groups based on occupation

1 - H. qush = Brahmins or Priests

2 ↳ Kshatriyas or warriors

3 Vys-yuz ↳ Vaisiyas = Herders, Farmers, Artisans + Merchants

4th People who had little or no Aryan heritage

into a 4th Group the Sudras = Farm workers, Servants

and other laborers were the lowest level of

Society (most were Dravidians = People who Aryans had conquered)