

Aim: How did the Aryans build a great civilization?

I. Aryan Civilization

1. 1500 BCE nomads migrated from Poland & the Asian Steppes
2. The Aryans are tall and light skinned
3. The Aryans are known as Indo-Europeans
4. Dravidians were short & dark skinned
5. The Aryans encounter the Dravidians and push them south

II. Aryan Culture

- Excellent warriors: used chariots
- Pastoral were herders of cattle & other animals
- They enjoyed drinking, dancing, gambling & dice
- Led by a rajah or king chief
- Lack of art & paintings

III. Aryan Religion

- based on Vedas which are hymns & myths spread verbally
- Vedic Age (1500 BCE-500 BCE)
- Aryans was polytheistic
- They believed they were the master or superior race
- This helped the birth of Hinduism

IV. Aryan Social Structure

- Society was divided into groups and classes
- Born into an occupation, (if your father was a farmer so are you)
 - Brahmins: Priests
 - Kshatriyas: Warriors
 - Vaishyas: Farmers, merchants
 - Shudras: Laborers
 - Untouchables: Polluted Laborers