

The Vedic Age

Chapter 6: The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation · Topic 2

Key Concept

The Vedic Age is divided into the Early Vedic Period (around 1500-1000 BCE) and the Later Vedic Period (around 1000-600 BCE), each with different social and political developments.

The Rigveda, the oldest of the four Vedas, contains hymns praising various gods and offers insight into early Vedic society, beliefs, and rituals.

During the Vedic Age, society was organised, agriculture and cattle-rearing were important, and early forms of the varna (class) system began to develop.

The Vedic Age laid the foundation for many aspects of Indian culture, including religious practices, social structures, and philosophical ideas that continue to influence India today.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Vedic Age followed the Harappan Civilisation.
- The Vedas are ancient sacred texts composed in this period.
- The Early Vedic Period was around 1500-1000 BCE.
- The Later Vedic Period was around 1000-600 BCE.
- The Rigveda is the oldest of the four Vedas.
- Agriculture and cattle-rearing were important activities.
- The varna (class) system began developing in this age.
- The Vedic Age shaped many aspects of Indian culture.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Rigveda and one hymn or theme from it.
- 2 Compare the Early and Later Vedic Periods.
- 3 Discuss the importance of cattle in Vedic society.
- 4 Research the beginnings of the varna system.
- 5 Explain how the Vedic Age influences India today.
- 6 Create a timeline showing the Harappan and Vedic periods.