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Art and Architecture of the Indus Valley Civilizations



Pre-Vedic India (2600-1700 B.C.E.)

- Spread over modern Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Northwest India
- Permanent cities made of brick
 - Sophisticated water drainage and storage system
- Made jewelry and other craft items



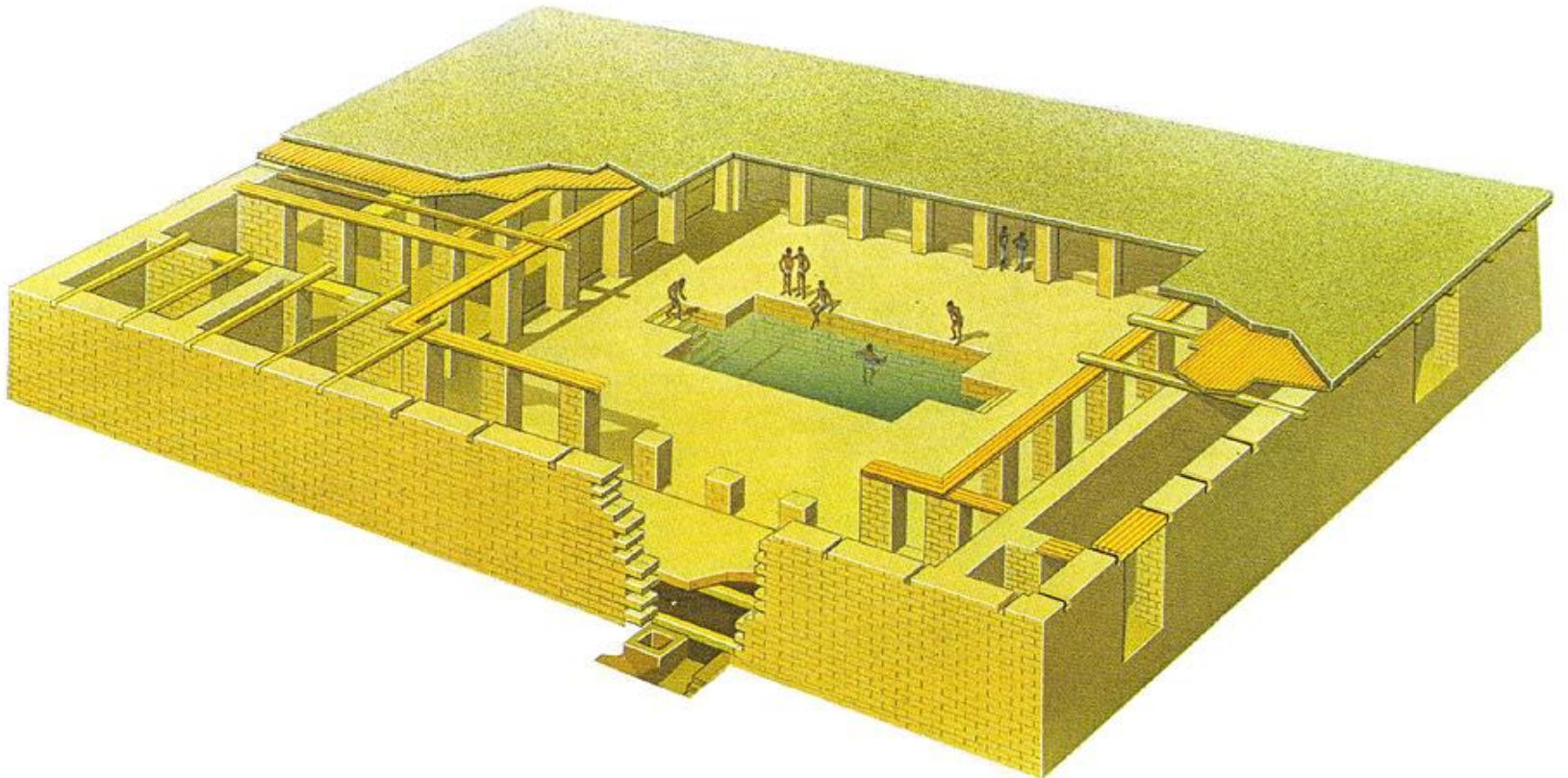
Brick Building of Indus Valley Civilizations

- Made of a mixture of clay, soil and water into a wood frame
- Either laid in sun or fired in a kiln to harden



Great Bath of Mohenjo-Daro

- Architectural development in water collection and drainage
 - Tar and gypsum used to prevent leaking



Great Bath of Mohenjo-Daro



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Water Drainage Systems

- Sophisticated waste water drainage system developed in cities
 - Made of brick
 - Show urban planning/design



Stamp Seals

- Harrapan Bull Seal (c. 2600-1900 B.C.E.)
- Used either as marks of ownership or badges of status
 - Commonly used animals, humans, or divinities



Ceramics

- Archeological evidence suggests contact with surrounding cultures
 - Served functional and aesthetic purposes



Vedic Period (1700-500 B.C.E.)

- Triggered by Aryan migration into Indus valley
- Combined Harrapan and Aryan culture
 - Linguistic changes
 - Religious texts written
 - Introduction of bronze and Iron
 - Also Chariots and Bows and Arrows



Rig Veda

- Collection of Aryan epics passed down orally until recorded in Sanskrit by Brahmans
 - Formed basis of Indian religious structures



Vedas, Sanskrit Literature

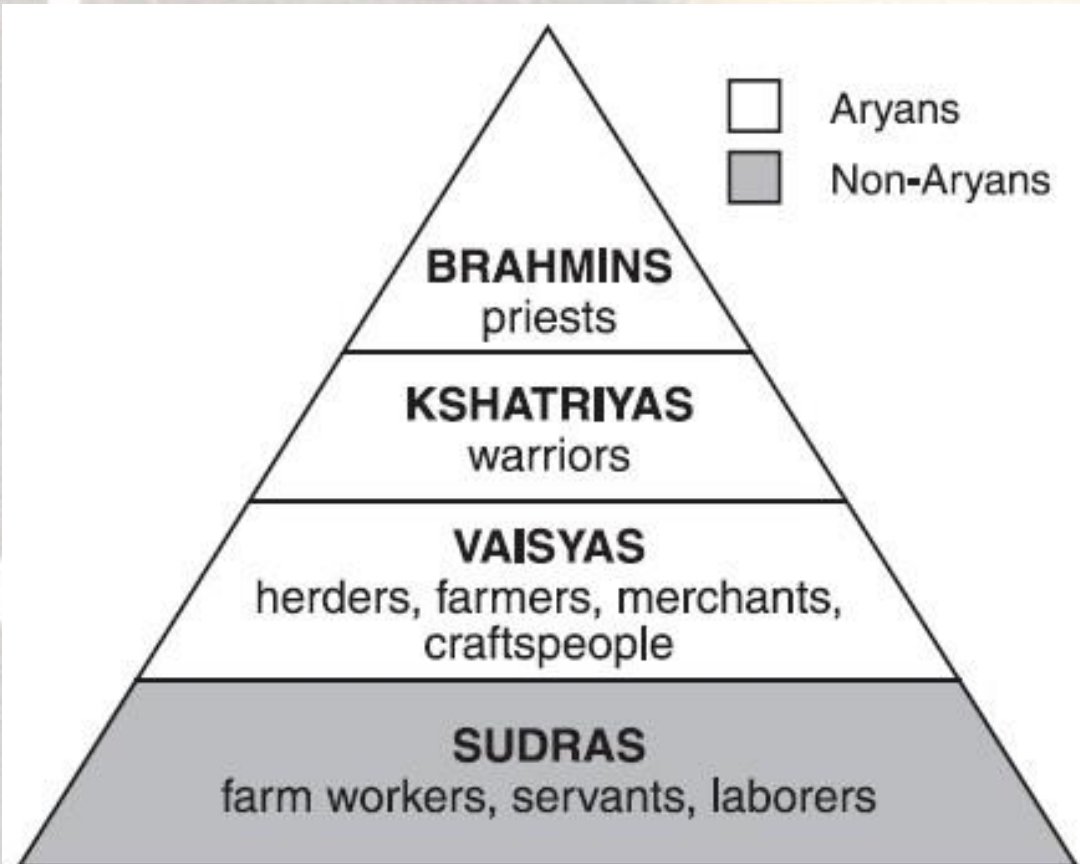
Significance of Rig Veda

- Increases in literacy
 - Market for designed manuscripts
- Developments of Hinduism
- Basis of Indian Caste System



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Indian Caste System



Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*,
Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)



Exit Cards

How does migration and trade explain the reason that many civilizations have similar artistic traditions?

