

Vedic Period

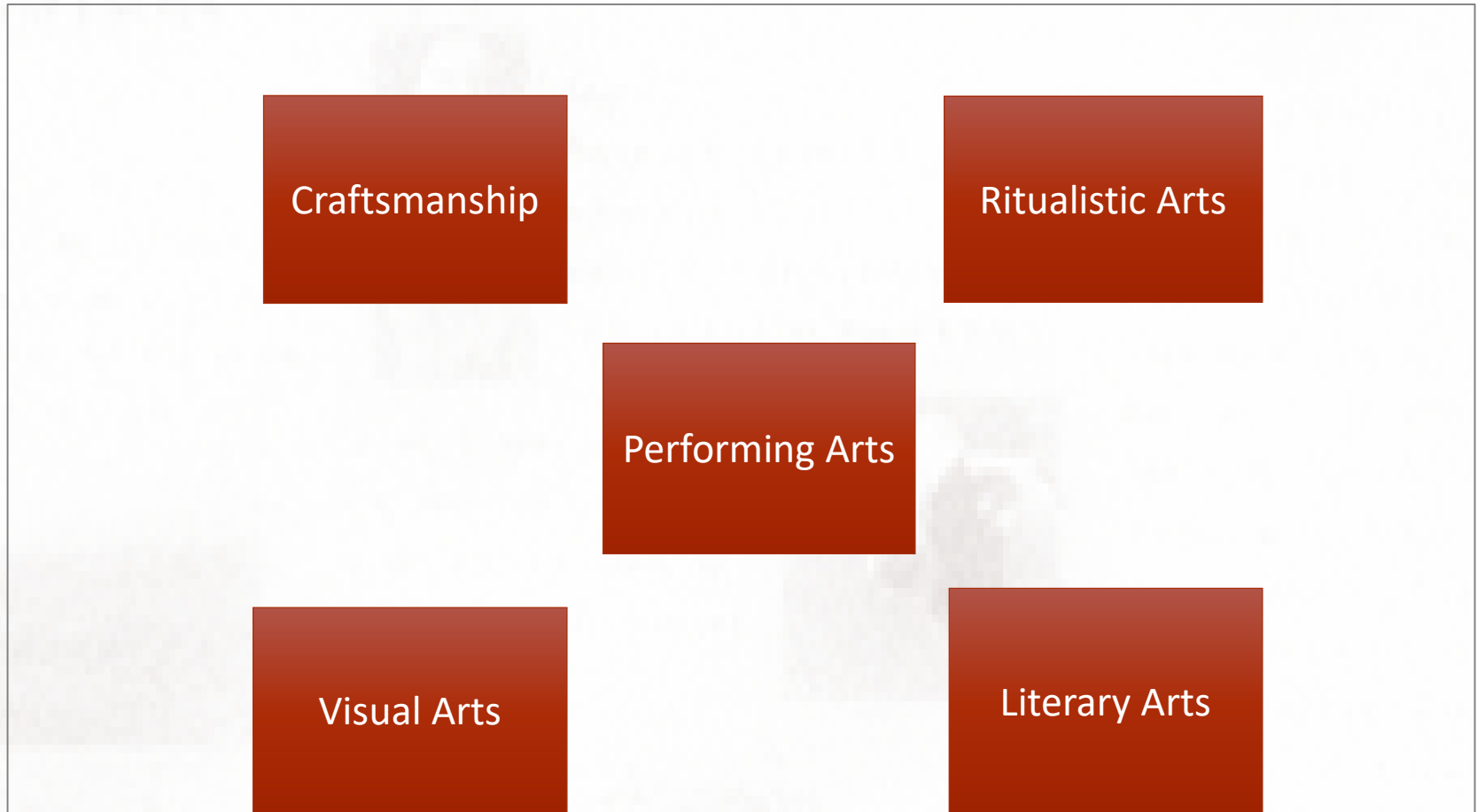
Arts and Culture:

The Transformation of the Spiritual into the Material

Purpose of Our Exploration

- To describe different forms of creativity pursued in the Vedic period
- To describe the social constructs that were in place during the Vedic period
- To analyze and evaluate the role that creativity and social constructs played in the lives of individuals in the Vedic period

Artistic Efforts in the Vedic Period



Craftsmanship: Pottery and Sculpture

- Presence of Potter dependent on location and migration
- Differences in elements of design: redware, greyware, ironware, abstract vs. geometric design



Jar from Harappa

Craftsmanship: Carvings and Statues & Figurines

- Depictions of everyday life either in living structures such as caves or other materials (such as wood) to be kept in the home and other areas
- Materials used such as copper, iron, zinc noted in Vedas as being sacred materials of earth
- Certain aspects of life transferred into art, then into understanding of spiritual qualities (example: symbology of the cow)

Horse from
Lothal



Crafting of Tools

- Everyday life: farming, hunting, cooking, religious worship etc. led to the creative endeavor of developing tools
- Examples include blades, grinding stones, pestles, sickles, arrowheads, etc.



Iron artifacts from BC
200 to AD 300

Visual Arts: Body-Centric Fashion

- The way clothes were worn in alignment with body's energy (statue example)
- For women, sarees of cotton and silk, or upper and lower garments held with a belt
- For men, different variations of wrappings of cloth (dhoti, lungi, paridhana), sometimes held together with a belt.
- Shawls were en vogue during this period
- Jewelry in gold and copper



Visual Arts: Architecture

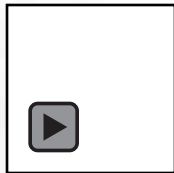
- Design of homes
- Materials utilized: mud, brick, limestone, etc.

Example of high-walled houses from Harappa



Literary Arts: Ritualistic

- Recitation of shlokas as vibrations for the universe
- Words, descriptions and storytelling
- Sample of Vedic Chanting: Gayatri mantra



Ritualistic Arts

- Performance of Pujas: conversations with God
- *Bali(s)*: platforms for animal sacrifice, typically a goat or horse, or even bull or ox
- *Homa(s)*: Offerings made to fire as part of puja



Performing Arts: Music

- Instruments such as drums, flute, and veena
- *Stotri*: group of vocal artists



Performing Arts: Dance and Drama

- Plays served as avenues of discussion on spiritual values
- Stories derived mostly the Vedas
- Both men and women were performers
- Festivals and rituals, such as pujas for fertility, were occasions for performance

Culture in Vedic Period

Social
Relationship

Conduct

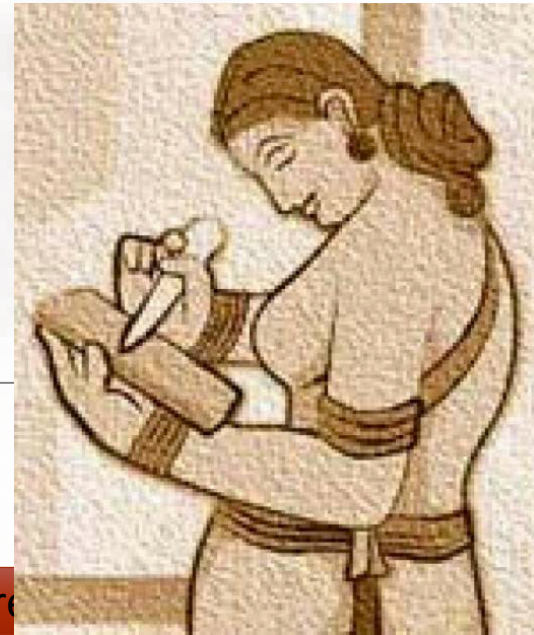
Language

Group Identity

Arts and Culture

Gender: Status of Women

- Equal status of women and men
- Equal importance in family and religious matters
- All received formal and informal education
- Certain laws did limit conditions of property ownership for women



Family Life

- Family within larger kin group; close to modern equivalent of joint family
- Patriarchal Society
- Marriage: polygamy was present in the society
- No caste system
- Presence of servants in the household

Thank You!