Hindu Holy Books Explanation Sheet

Shruti	
Rig Veda	Focuses on deities (gods and goddesses).
Yajur Veda	Instructions for rituals.
Sama Veda	Melodies and songs to be sung during rituals.
Atharva Veda	Hymns and incantations to be said during rituals
Each of these holy texts are divided into four sections:	
Samhitas	Oldest part of the text – contains mantras and hymns.
Brahmanas	These include myths and legends, as well as explaining some of the rituals.
Aranyakas	Describe how to perform rituals and ceremonies.
Upanishads	This part explains spiritual ideas such as Brahman (ultimate soul), atman (individual soul) and reincarnation.
Smirti	
Dharmashastras	Duties, rights, laws, behaviour and how to live life in the right way (dharma) for Hindus.
Puranas	Myths and legends relating to the major Hindu deities.
Mahabharata	Story about the Kurekshetra War for the throne of the Hastinpura kingdom.
Baghavad Gita	Part of the **Mahabharata,** containing Krishna's teachings.
Ramayana	The story of Rama and Sita. Rama is an example of how to live one's life according to the dharma.

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