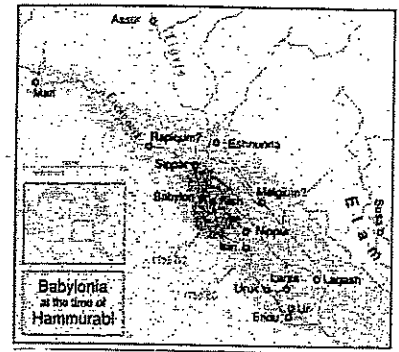


Name:

Hammurabi's Code Packet



Over the next few class periods, we will be studying many aspects of Hammurabi's Code. On the following pages, you will find information and activities that pertain to our study of the Code.

Part I. Background Information

Hammurabi ruled Babylon from 1792-1750 BCE. He was the 6th king in his dynasty. Up until Hammurabi, most kings in the region were considered cruel and harsh. Hammurabi's Code was not the first set of laws, but they are viewed by many historians as the first set of "fair" laws.

What was Hammurabi's Code?

Why did laws become a necessity of early civilizations?

What didn't the Babylonian justice system have that our justice system has today?

Key terms:

Compensation- _____

example:

Equivalent Retaliation- _____

example:

Negligence- _____

example:

Intent- _____

example:

Part II.

Interpreting Hammurabi's Code

Directions: In the chart below, please find the law that corresponds with each number, read it, and summarize it in the space provided (under "Basic Content"). Next, discuss this law with your group and what it may tell you about ancient Babylonian society. Under the heading "Conclusions about Babylonian Society", please write your response.

Law # Basic Content Conclusions about Babylonian Society

6

14

17

53

Law # Basic Content Conclusions about Old Babylonian Society

110

148

196

218

Part III. Does the Penalty Fit the Crime?

Directions: Many of Hammurabi's Laws listed fines for crimes, paid out in shekels or minas of silver. Fines varied, meaning some crimes were considered more serious than others. While we don't know the present-day equivalent of the fines, Hammurabi's Law tells us that an artisan or laborer earned about five barleycorns a day. Using the table below, and the selected laws from Hammurabi's Code, find out how long a guilty person would have to work to pay fines connected with each particular offense.

Conversion Table

180 barleycorns= 1 shekel (Remember, artisans and laborers made about 5

60 shekels= 1 mina barleycorns each day!)

60 minas= 1 talent

1. Law 204: *If a freed man strike the body of another freed man, he shall pay ten shekels in money.*

How many barleycorns make up ten shekels?

How many days will a laborer have to work to pay this fine?

2. Law 59: *If any man, without the knowledge of the owner of a garden, fell a tree in a garden he shall pay half a mina in money.*

How many days will an artisan have to work to pay this fine?

Part IV. What would Hammurabi do?

Read the following scenarios. Based on what you have learned so far about Hammurabi's Code, what would you predict would happen if the case was to be decided in a court of Hammurabi? Please take an educated guess. It is **okay to be wrong**.

What should be done to a carpenter who builds a house and then the house falls down and kills the owner?

What should be done if a son is adopted and his birth parents want him back?

What should happen to a boy who slaps his father?

Part V. Modern Justice

The definition of justice differs today from nation to nation, person to person. Modern justice systems throughout the world share a variety of historical influences, including Hammurabi's Code and religious laws, such as the Ten Commandments and the Koran. No judicial system works perfectly 100% of the time.

How would you define justice?

Do you believe that the definition of justice changes or evolves? Why or why not?

In the United States judicial system today, we use the term "burden of proof." What does this mean? How "fair" do you believe this is?