

#24 Hammurabi's Code 1780 BCE

Name _____

Document A: Religion

1. Where did Hammurabi get his power as king?
2. According to this document, was Babylonia a monotheistic society (belief in one god) or a polytheistic society (belief in many gods)? _____
How do you know this from Hammurabi's Code? (Textual evidence)
3. According to this document, what is the goal of Hammurabi's Code?

Document B: Economy

1. Working the fields: Summarize laws 42-43 in your own words.
2. The dams: Summarize laws 53-54 in your own words.
3. Type of Economy a. According to this document, do you think most people in Babylonia made money in cities or in the country? _____
B. Use textual evidence to answer how do you know this from Hammurabi's Code?

Document C: Society - Social Hierarchy and the role of Women

Laws 196-199 discuss putting out the eye of "another man," a "free man" and a "slave." a.

- 1A. According to this document, whose eye was worth the most? _____
- 1B. According to this document, whose eye was worth the least? _____
- 1C. How do you know? (textual evidence - use a quote)

2. **Equality** a. According to this document, was everyone equal in Babylonia? _____
Infer: What would happen to a free man if he cannot pay?

3. **Women** a. According to law 138, what happens to a dowry if a man leaves his wife?
b. What does this suggest about the position of women in Babylonian society?

Historians can learn a lot about Babylonia from Hammurabi's Code. Use evidence from the historical documents you read to answer.

According to the Code, Babylonian **religion** was _____

According to the Code, the Babylonian **economy** was based on _____

According to the Code, Babylonian **society** was structured around _____

Class Set - Please do not write on this

Document A: The following selection is from the introduction of Hammurabi's Code. As you read, pay attention to the religion of Babylonia. What did people believe in? Who were their gods?

When Anu the Sublime (greatest) . . . and Bel, the lord of Heaven and earth, who Decreed (ordered) the fate of the land, assigned to Marduk, the over-ruling son of Ea, God of righteousness, power over earthly man, and made him great . . . they called Babylon by his celebrated name, made it great on earth, and founded an everlasting kingdom in it. Then Anu and Bel called by name me, Hammurabi, the exalted (highest in rank) prince, who feared God, to bring about the rule of righteousness in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil-doers; so that the strong should not harm the weak; so that I should rule over the black-headed people like Shamash, and enlighten the land, to further the well-being of mankind.

Document B: The following selections from Hammurabi's Code discuss the economy in Babylonia. As you read, pay attention to what was important to Babylonians as they tried to make a living.

Harvest - collect what is grown, **Grain**=wheat barley crop

42. If any one take over a field to farm it, and obtain no harvest from it, it must be proved that he did no work on the field, and he must deliver grain, just as his neighbor, to the owner of the field.

43. If he did not farm the field, he shall give grain like his neighbor's to the owner of the field, and the field which he let left without seeds he must plow and sow and return to its owner.

53. If any one be too lazy to keep his dam in proper condition . . . if then the dam break and all the fields be flooded, then shall he in whose dam the break occurred be sold for money, and the money shall replace the grain which he has caused to be ruined.

54. If he be not able to replace the grain, then he and his possessions shall be divided among the farmers whose grain he has flooded.

Document C: Babylonian Society

As you read, pay attention to how society was structured (its classes or hierarchy). Was everyone treated equally? **Mina** = 1.25 pounds of gold or 80 days of work for a farmer/laborer

138. If a man wishes to separate from his wife who has borne him no children, he shall give her the amount of her purchase money and the **dowry** (gift of money or property to the husband to help support the wife) which she brought from her father's house, and let her go.

196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.

198. If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.

199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.

202. If any one hit a man higher in rank, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.

203. If a free-born man strike the body of another free-born man or equal rank, he shall pay one gold mina.