

# **The Code of Hammurabi:**

## **Process Paper**

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**Group Website**

# Process Paper

## How We Chose Our Topic:

At first, our group was overwhelmed with topics. After searching through a wide array of topics from the National History Day website, we narrowed it down to a few that appealed to us. Afterward, we realized that we needed a creative and unique topic. As a result, Saharsh suggested that we do The Code of Hammurabi as it was the first extensive legal law code that dealt with the moral issue of justice in an empire. We decided that the role of rights and responsibilities was prominent in the Code of Hammurabi and continued to research this topic.

## How We Conducted Our Research:

We started the research by looking up the basic information about the Code of Hammurabi and the background of the Babylonian Empire. Once we got ourselves familiar with Hammurabi and the creation of his code, we decided to do more comprehensive research as we discovered the correlation of the Code of Hammurabi with the law of retribution, also known as *lex talionis*. Furthermore, we researched about the historical significance of the law code and the way it was portrayed by the citizens of the Babylonian Empire. One of our challenges was to find primary sources, as it was hard to find information that was used in Hammurabi's reign. Later, we realized that translations count as primary sources and we went on from there.

## Category and Creation:

Due to the rapidly burgeoning technological world, we decided that a website category would be the most engaging and innovative way to present our information. Our group members had background knowledge of HTML and making a website. Hence, Weebly was a medium that allowed us to easily convey and organize our information. We then added the page sections and made our website unique by incorporating flash, audio and animations.

## How Our Project Relates to the Theme:

One could argue that the most pivotal turning point in history is the Code of Hammurabi. It gave birth to the modern justice system that is ever-present in our nation. Had Hammurabi's code not been written, this advancement would not only affect Babylon's progression, but it would defer if not erase the possibility of later law codes. The factor of rights and responsibilities was significant in this law system. The code also applied to everyone so that no one was exempt from the law. In addition, the Code of Hammurabi was one of the first examples of the presumption of innocence in law. The king had a right to make the law code to promote and tranquility in his empire. However, King Hammurabi had a responsibility to make the laws equal for all social classes and to not overly discriminate. Additionally, the civilians of the Babylonian Empire had a responsibility to follow the rules to allow success to flourish the kingdom.

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