

## Studying Hammurabi's Code

### Phase One: Using the Source to Analyze Culture

1. What does the Code of Hammurabi tell us about the class structure in Babylon? Make specific reference to the laws to back up your response.
2. What can be said about the Babylonians attitudes towards:
  - a. Family?
  - b. Property?
  - c. The value of human life?
3. What values and morals appear to be most important to the Babylonians?
4. Does it matter to the Babylonians if an action is deliberate or accidental? What does this tell us about their society?

### Phase Two: Engaging with the Source

Imagine that you are a tribunal of Babylonian judges. You must cast judgment on each of the following individuals. Support each verdict with reference to the specific law that applies in each situation.

1. Sinnaveh's house collapsed on night, with the result that Sinneveh, a commoner, had both legs broken. Gildas, the builder, is brought to trial.
2. Ashok, who had fallen on bad times, took a pig from the home of his brother and killed it to feed his family. Ashok did not know that the pig was property of the local temple, and that his brother was tending it while the priest was meeting with the king.

### Phase Three: Applying Knowledge of Culture to the Source

You must decide how the Babylonians would deal with this, based upon what you know about their moral and value system. For each judgment, provide a brief rationale for why you made your judgment.

1. Turok's prize bull broke out of its enclosure and ran rampant through the streets of the town. Before Turok was able to get it under control, it trampled and gored the five-year old son of the local priest. The child died three days later. How will Turok be punished?
2. Hanan bought a slave from a slaver passing through his town. It turned out that the slave had run away from Ashwar, his rightful owner. What will be your judgment on Hanan and the slave?
3. Azriel kidnaps the daughter of a commoner and rapes her. Before he is caught for this offense, he also rapes a slave-girl belonging to a fairly wealthy merchant. What will be his punishment?