

Name: _____

Hammurabi's Code Assignment

First, look up Hammurabi's Code. Write down the punishments Hammurabi gave for the following crimes.

Crime	Punishment
Accuse another person	
Steal from the temple or court	
You buy something from a merchant, but another person says it is his	
Kidnapping a minor child	
Breaking a hole in someone's house with the intent to steal	
Your stuff is stolen, but they can't find the thief	
Firefighter takes stuff	
Don't fix your dam; it breaks	
Tavern-keeper has conspirators meet in his tavern	
Son strikes father	
Put out another's eye	
Knock out another's teeth	
Strike a higher-ranked man	
Hits pregnant lady so she dies	
Doctor accidentally kills a patient while operating	

Answer the following questions about Hammurabi's Code:

What is the basic rule for the laws of Hammurabi's Code (hint: see the punishments concerning eyes and teeth)?

Laws have two goals: punish the lawbreaker and deter future crime (meaning stop someone else from doing it). If you were the victim of a crime, how satisfied would you have been with the punishment meted out by Hammurabi? Why?

Do you think that Hammurabi's Code was effective as a deterrent (did it prevent other crimes)? Why or why not?

Your Code

You are Hammurabi (or Hammurabi-ette).

You may work with 1 or 2 other people (no more).

You will write your own code of laws.

Answer the following questions as you invent your own code of laws:

What crimes are capital offenses (result in death)? How would the punishment be carried out? Who would attend?

How would you punish someone for each of the following crimes:

1. Assault
2. Stealing
3. Kidnapping
4. Treason
5. Murder