

Building Background

Investigation #2!

In this investigation, we will explore one of the earliest and most complete set of laws in the world...

The Laws of Hammurabi

These laws were written almost 4,000 years ago in Ancient Mesopotamia.

Building Background

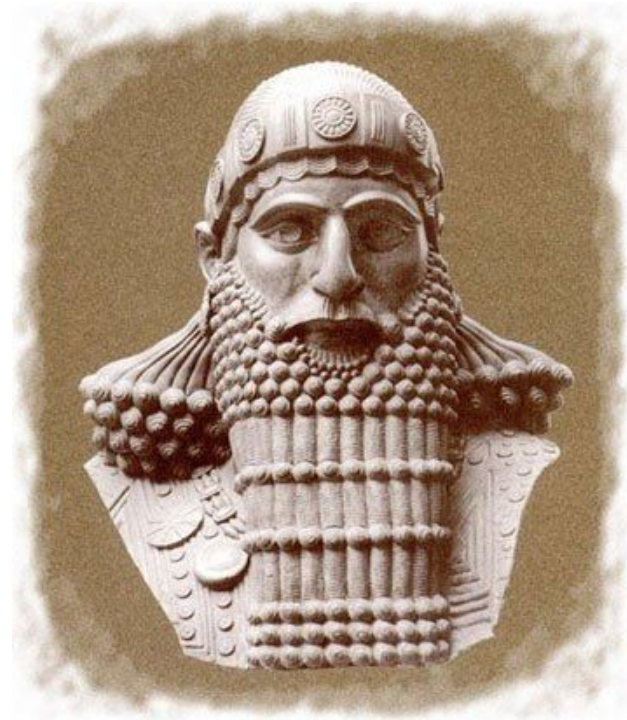
Directions: *Use this sheet to take notes from the “Building Background” PowerPoint slides on Day 1 of the investigation.*

1. Hammurabi: Who, Where, & When

- Who was King Hammurabi? List 1-2 facts about him.
- What is the relationship between Babylon & Mesopotamia? Where were they located?
- When did Hammurabi rule Babylon?

Who was King Hammurabi?

- Hammurabi was the 6th King of Babylon (city-state located in modern-day Iraq)
- Reigned/Ruled from 1792-1750 B.C.E.
- Created over 275 laws.
- The Laws of Hammurabi are the longest & best organized set of laws from Mesopotamia.

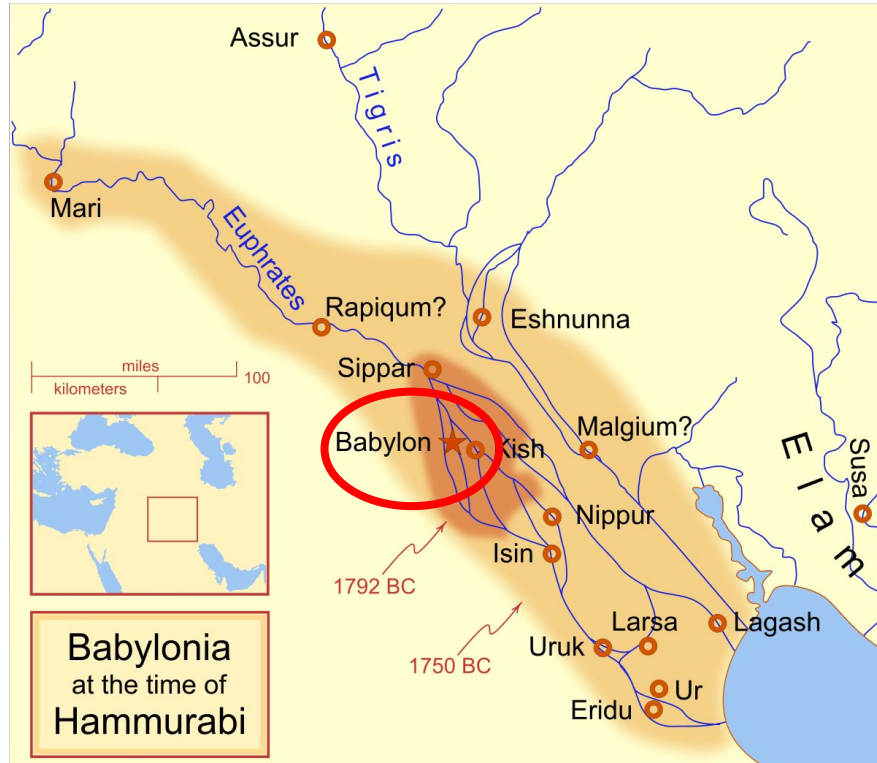


What do we already know about Mesopotamia?

- Located in the Fertile Crescent
 - Located in what is now southern Iraq.
 - Mesopotamia=
 - “The land between the rivers”
 - Tigris & Euphrates
 - By 1776 B.C.E., Hammurabi conquered most of northern & western Mesopotamia.
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Where was Babylon?



- Large city-state
- Had power over a lot of surrounding areas
- Several thousand people lived there



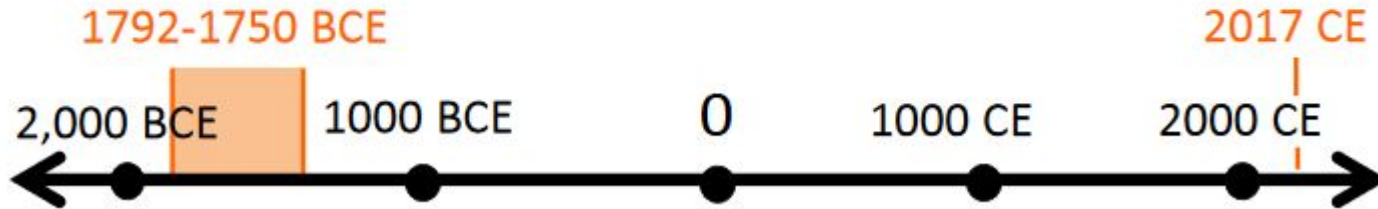
Babylon today:



When was this?

We live in the year 2019 in the Common Era (C.E)

Hammurabi ruled Babylon for 42 years, between 1792-1750 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era).



Since these events took place almost 4,000 years ago, how do we know what happened?

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2. Video: The Law Code Stele of King Hammurabi

- What is a stele? Describe what the Law Code Stele looks like.
- List the three parts of the Law Code Stele
- Who are the two figures carved into the top of the stele?
- What are the laws about? List some topics.

The Law Code Stele of King Hammurabi

Louvre Museum, Paris, France

Speakers: Dr. Steven Zucker & Dr. Beth Harris

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/ancient-near-east1/babylonian/v/stele-of-hammurabi>

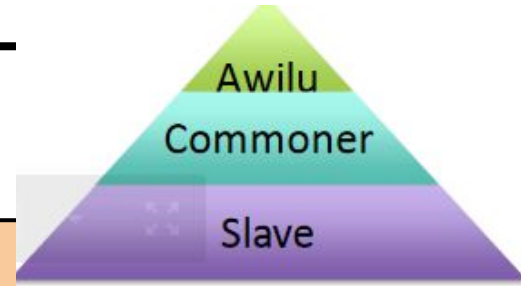
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3. Religious & Social Beliefs in Mesopotamia

- The people of Mesopotamia believed in _____ different gods. Some examples are:
 - What were the three social classes in Mesopotamia?
-

Beliefs in Mesopotamia



Religious Beliefs

The people of Mesopotamia believed in many different gods. Some examples are:

- **Shamash:** the sun god & the god of justice
- **Anu:** “father of the gods”
- **Enlil:** son of Anu, became king of the gods, god who granted kingship

Social Beliefs

There were 3 different social classes, or groups of people, in Mesopotamia:

1. **Awilu:** free people, wealthy noblemen
2. **Commoner:** free, but not the same rights as an Awilu.
3. **Slave:** unfree, no rights

3. Religious & Social Beliefs in Mesopotamia

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Our **Central Question** for
this Investigation:

**What was important to
King Hammurabi?**

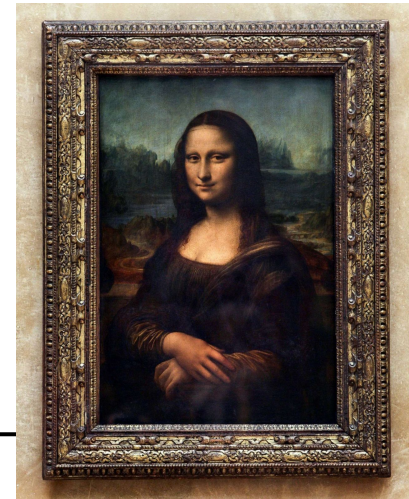


Our Assignment!

Hammurabi's Laws are
on permanent display at
the **Louvre Museum** in
Paris, France...



Just keep this in
mind for now...



Our Assignment!

The museum curators
have written information
about the Laws that
viewers can read when
they visit the exhibit



Just keep
this in
mind for
now...



Our Assignment!

Just keep this in mind for now...

The curators want to add a new section to their exhibit that explains what was important to King Hammurabi using various sources as evidence.

Your Task: Read the argument that the museum makes about what was important to Hammurabi. In an email, **critique any problems** you see with the argument. Include **evidence** and **reasoning** in your critique.
