

World History

Babylonians

The Fertile Crescent is home to some of the most fertile land on Earth. It is also home to many early civilizations.



Highlight the areas around Sumer, Akkad, Assyria, Babylon and Phoenicia.

Today we will study the Babylonians, but let's review what other inventions they would have gained from the earlier Sumerians:

Do you remember the Sumerian inventions?

Were we correct?

Fertile Crescent Civilizations and Hammurabi's Code

About 3500 B.C. the Sumerians moved to the Fertile Crescent and faced problems including lack of water to inland farms.

They solved this by digging irrigation ditches from rivers to their fields. This allowed them to grow more crops, the population grew and city-states became needed

A city-state is like a city that has its own government and these included specialized workers as well as new religious institutions. Sumerians like other fertile crescent civilizations were polytheistic.

These city-states constantly fought one another and were soon conquered by the Babylonians.

Babylonians took over the land the Sumerians had once occupied but kept most of the cultural, religious, and technological advances of the Sumerians. This adoption of similar beliefs and traditions is known as cultural diffusion

The Babylonian empire lasted from around 1800 BC to 1600 BC.

The Babylonians established their capital at Babylon and were led by King Hammurabi.

Hammurabi united the cities of Sumer and then expanded his empire all the way to Asia Minor. Hammurabi was also famous for creating a law code known as "Hammurabi's Code."



Hammurabi's Code!

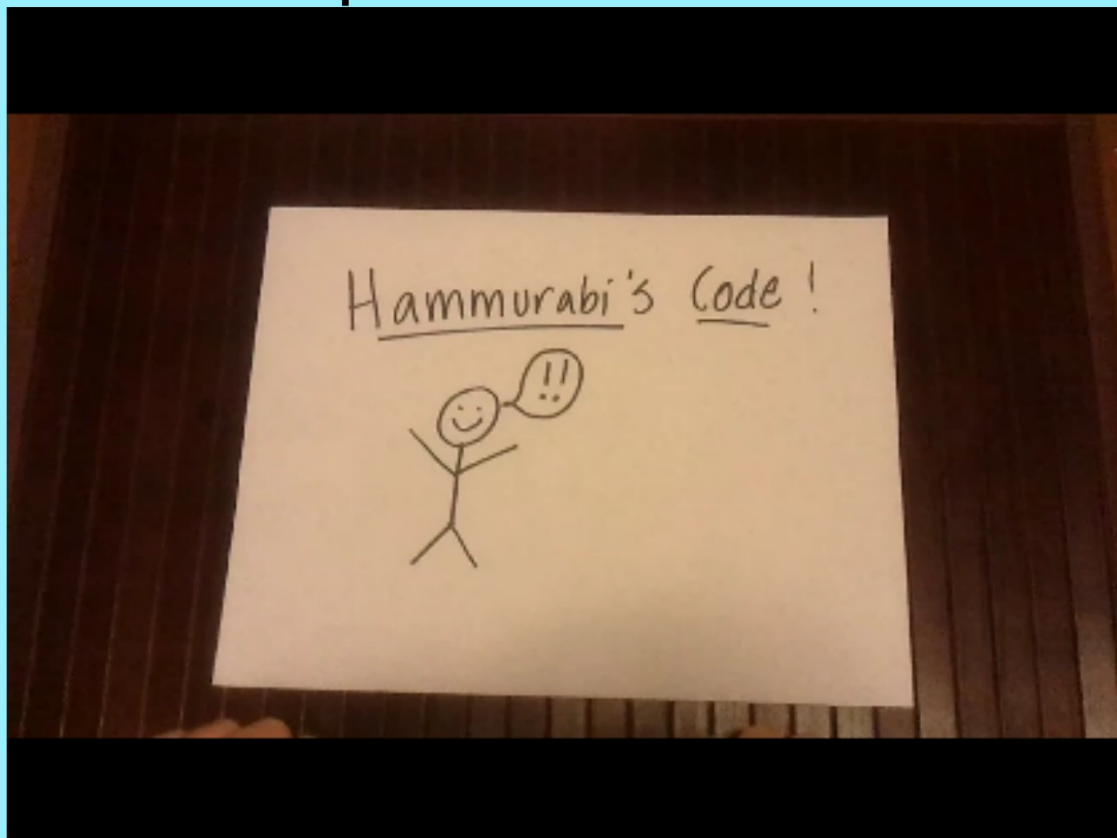
Hammurabi decided that the Sumerian law was too confusing and nothing was uniform. Something that was a crime in one city was allowed in the next city

So...Hammurabi went through over 5,000 Sumerian laws and narrowed it down to 282. He also declared that every city should have a set of the laws carved in stone and publicly displayed.

Hammurabi's Code is based off the idea that the punishment should fit the crime. "An eye for an eye." It was used by various cultures for almost 5,000 years!



Here's a clip on Hammurabi's Code...



Now let's read the actual laws and see if the punishments fit the crimes

Ancient Civilizations Vocabulary Review:
Draw a line & match the definition to the correct term

Polytheism

Babylonian ruler famous for his code of laws

Ziggurat

Arc of rich farmland between the Persian Gulf and Mediterranean Sea

Specialization

Belief in many gods

Archaeologist

Political unit much like an independent country

Fertile Crescent

New ideas spreading from one culture to another

City-state

Scientists who learn about past human life and activities

Cultural Diffusion

Pyramid-shaped monuments part of a temple in Sumer

Hammurabi

Development of skills in a specific kind of work