

# Hammurabi's Code of Law



# Would you apply laws the same way King Hammurabi did in Ancient Mesopotamia?



For each situation, record your idea of how the law should apply. Then, see how Hammurabi's Code applied to the situation. Write down your reaction to Hammurabi's Code – Do you think it is fair? Too lenient? Too harsh? You decide!!

# Hammurabi's Code Activity

	I think a fair law would be...	Hammurabi's Code said...	My reaction to Hammurabi's Code is...
Situation 1			
Situation 2			
Situation 3			
Situation 4			
Situation 5			
Situation 6			

# Situation 1



**What should be done to the carpenter who builds a house that falls and kills the owner?**

**Hammurabi's Code # 229:** If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.

[http://www.phillipmartin.info/hammurabi/hammurabi\\_situation\\_index.htm](http://www.phillipmartin.info/hammurabi/hammurabi_situation_index.htm)

# Situation 2

**What should happen to a boy who slaps his father?**

**Hammurabi's Code # 195:**

If a son strikes his father, his hands shall be hewn (cut) off.



# Situation 3

**What should be done about a wife who ignores her duties and belittles her husband?**



**Hammurabi's Code # 143:** If the woman has not been careful but has gadded about, neglecting her house and belittling her husband, they shall throw that woman into the water

# Situation 4

**What should be done to the man who can not pay his debts?**



**Hammurabi's Code # 117:** If a man be in debt and is unable to pay his creditors, he shall sell his wife, son, or daughter, or bind them over to service. For three years they shall work in the houses of their purchaser or master; in the fourth year they shall be given their freedom.

# Situation 5

What should happen if a nobleman dies during surgery?



**Hammurabi's Code # 218:** If a doctor makes a large incision with an operating knife and kills a nobleman or commoner, or opens a tumor with the operating knife and cuts out the eye of a nobleman or commoner, the doctor's hands shall be cut off.



# Situation 6

What should the punishment be for robbery?



**Hammurabi's Code # 22:** If any one is committing a robbery and is caught, then he shall be put to death.