

# Comparative Justice Activity



## *Hammurabi's Code*

3. If anyone bring an accusation of any crime before the elders, and does not prove what he has charged, he shall, if it be a capital offense charged, be put to death.
5. If a judge try a case, reach a decision, and present his judgment in writing; if later error shall appear in his decision, and it be through his own fault, then he shall pay twelve times the fine set by him in the case, and he shall be publicly removed from the judge's bench, and never again shall he sit there to render judgment.
22. If anyone is committing a robbery and is caught, then he shall be put to death.
23. If the robber is not caught, then shall he who was robbed claim under oath the amount of his loss; then shall the community, and . . . on whose ground and territory and in whose domain it was compensate him for the goods stolen.
25. If fire break out in a house, and someone who comes to put it out cast his eye upon the property of the owner of the house, and take the property of the master of the house, he shall be thrown into that self-same fire.
114. If a man have no claim on another for corn and money, and try to demand it by force, he shall pay one-third of a mina of silver in every case.
127. If anyone "point the finger" (slander) at a sister of a god or the wife of any one, and cannot prove it, this man shall be taken before the judges and his brow shall be marked. (by cutting the skin, or perhaps hair.)
195. If a son strike his father, his hands shall be hewn off.
196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.
197. If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.
198. If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.
199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.
200. If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.
201. If he knock out the teeth of a freed man, he shall pay one-third of a gold mina.
229. If a builder build a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
230. If it kill the son of the owner the son of that builder shall be put to death.
231. If it kill a slave of the owner, then he shall pay slave for slave to the owner of the house.
232. If it ruin goods, he shall make compensation for all that has been ruined, and inasmuch as he did not construct properly this house which he built and it fell, he shall re-erect the house from his own means.
282. If a slave say to his master: "You are not my master," if they convict him his master shall cut off his ear.

Cut out the title and "Hammurabi's Code." Glue onto the left side (holes on right) in interactive notebook. Cut out "Modern Laws" and table: glue onto right side in interactive notebook.

**Modern Laws**

- A. **Defamation** is the action of damaging the good reputation of someone. A person may be liable for defamation if they make untrue statements about another person. There are two types of defamation; slander and libel. Slander is the act of voicing defamation while libel is writing the defamation. In the case of defamation, a lawsuit can be filed and the person accused can be brought to court. They could be fined or serve jail time.
- B. **Theft** is the taking of another person's property without that person's permission. Someone guilty of theft can pay a fine or serve jail time, usually depending on the value of the item/s that was/were taken.
- C. **Property damage** is the injury to real or personal property through another's negligence or willful destruction. Property damage is distinguished from personal injury. The amount of recovery for property damage may be established by evidence of replacement value, cost of repairs, loss of use until repaired or replaced or, in the case of heirlooms or very personal items, by subjective testimony as to sentimental value.
- D. **Assault** and battery involve physically injuring someone else. The person committing assault will be arrested and taken to court. They will likely serve jail time.

Hammurabi's Code: Number and single-sentence summary	Modern law equivalent (bolded term)	Which provides better justice? Answer & explain using complete sentences.