

Steps to Play the Game

Step 1: Overall Goal of the Game:

You will work in a small group and create a new society. Your first step in creating a new society is to create a set of 10 laws. You will look at the Code of Hammurabi and decide which laws you want to use or adapt. You will also decide if you want to create new laws that aren't in the Code of Hammurabi. Your society will start with 1000 people in it. After you finish creating the laws, your teacher will read a list of problems that your society will face. For each problem, you will have to decide if your society has a law that addresses the problem. If your group has a law that address the problem, your society's population will stay the same or will even grow. If your group doesn't have a law that addresses the problem, people in your society will die. The goal is to have the biggest population by the end of the game.

Step 2: Read Laws from Code of Hammurabi and Limitations of the Laws

You will receive a handout from your teacher with the laws from the Code of Hammurabi. As a class, read through the laws and limitations of the laws.

Step 3: Write Your Own Laws

Your group will create 10 laws for your society. Write the laws below. Your group will decide if it is going to use or adapt laws from the Code of Hammurabi or if your group is going to make its own laws.

Law Number	Description of Law
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

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Law Number	Description of Law
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Step 4: Counting the Population in Your Society

Your teacher will read 6 prompts. Each prompt has a problem that your society will face. The prompt will also say how many people will die in your society if you don't have a related law to address the problem. After each prompt, write down how many people your society has. Fill out the information below.

Starting Population: 1000 people

Population After Teacher Reads Prompt 1:

Population After Teacher Reads Prompt 2:

Population After Teacher Reads Prompt 3:

Population After Teacher Reads Prompt 4:

Population After Teacher Reads Prompt 5:

Population After Teacher Reads Prompt 6:

Understanding the Code of Hammurabi

Category #1: Business Relationships

Law	A Modern-Day Interpretation of the Law
<p># 236</p> <p>If a man rent his boat to a sailor, and the sailor is careless, and the boat is wrecked or goes aground, the sailor shall give the owner of the boat another boat as compensation.</p>	<p>Imagine someone rented a boat to another person. If that person destroys the boat, he or she needs to buy a new boat for the owner. This means that if you borrow something and ruin it, you have to replace it.</p> <p>#takeresponsibility #paythepersonback #breakityoubuyit</p>
<p># 238</p> <p>If a sailor wreck any one's ship, but saves it, he shall pay the half of its value in money.</p>	<p>Imagine someone rented a boat to another person. The boat is worth \$1000. The boat got damaged. However, the person was able to fix it! The person still has to pay \$500 to the person who owns the boat.</p> <p>#takeresponsibility #youstillowemoney</p>
<p>#233</p> <p>If a builder build a house for some one, even though he has not yet completed it; if then the walls seem toppling, the builder must make the walls solid from his own means.</p>	<p>If a builder builds a house for someone and the house starts to fall apart, the builder must use his own money and time to rebuild the house and make sure it is safe.</p> <p>#betterbuildwell #qualityoverspeed</p>
<p>#48</p> <p>If any one owe a debt for a loan, and a storm prostrates the grain, or the harvest fail, or the grain does not grow for lack of water; in that year he need not give his creditor any grain, he washes his debt-tablet in water and pays no rent for this year.</p>	<p>Imagine that a farmer wanted to buy a plow from a plow maker. However, the farmer cannot afford the plow because it is expensive. The plow maker decides to loan the plow to the farmer. In exchange for loaning the plow, the farmer will have to give the plow maker a certain amount of grains that he grows every year for three years. During the first year, the farmer gives the plow maker the correct amount of grains. However, during the second year, there is a drought. The farmer's crops die. He cannot give the plow maker any crops! The law says that the farmer would not have to give the plow maker any grains this year.</p> <p>#noneedtopay #payagainnextyear</p>

Understanding the Code of Hammurabi

Category #2: Justice and Punishment

Law	A Modern-Day Interpretation of the Law
<p>#5</p> <p>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 judgement.</p>	<p>If a judge makes an error when deciding if someone is guilty of a crime, he must pay a fine and cannot be a judge again.</p> <p>#thinkcarefully</p>
<p>#21</p> <p>If any one break a hole into a house (break in to steal), he shall be put to death before that hole and be buried.</p>	<p>If someone breaks into someone else's house, he or she will be killed.</p> <p>#nostealing #harshpunishment</p>
<p># 22</p> <p>If any one is committing a robbery and is caught, then he shall be put to death</p>	<p>If people are caught stealing from someone else, they will be killed.</p> <p>#punishmentforstealing</p>
<p>#23</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Imagine that a man is walking down the street in the neighborhood where he lives. He stops to tie his shoes. Someone robs him. Under this law, the neighbors have to help pay for the things that were stolen from the man.</p> <p>#helpingeachother #communityresponsibility</p>
<p># 3</p> <p>If any one 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.</p>	<p>Imagine that Bob is accusing Joe of killing his brother. Bob takes this case to a group of elders (old men who are in charge of deciding whether people are guilty of a crime). When Bob talks with the elders, he does not give any proof that Joe actually killed his brother. As punishment for Bob's not providing proof, the elders would kill Bob.</p> <p>#dontaccusewithoutproof #eldersincharge</p>

Understanding the Code of Hammurabi

Category #3: Family Relationships

Law	A Modern-Day Interpretation of the Law
<p>#133</p> <p>If a man is taken prisoner in war, and there is a sustenance in his house, but his wife leave house and court, and go to another house: because his wife did not keep her court, and went to another house, she shall be judicially condemned and thrown into the water.</p>	<p>A person is captured during war and cannot return home. However, the person left his or her spouse with enough food and money to survive. According to this law, the spouse is not allowed to start a new life with another person. If the person is caught leaving to start a new life, he or she will be drowned</p> <p>#loveisforever</p>
<p>#134</p> <p>If any one be captured in war and there is not sustenance in his house, if then his wife go to another house this woman shall be held blameless.</p>	<p>A person is captured in war and cannot return home. This time, the person didn't leave his or her spouse with enough food or money to survive. As a result, the spouse can leave to find a new house. He or she will not be punished for leaving.</p> <p>#movingon</p>
<p>#148</p> <p>If a man take a wife, and she be seized by disease, if he then desire to take a second wife he shall not put away his wife, who has been attacked by disease, but he shall keep her in the house which he has built and support her so long as she lives.</p>	<p>Two people get married. Shortly after they get married, one person gets very sick. The person who is not sick wants to marry someone else. However, the law says he or she still has to take care of the of the other person for as long as he or she lives.</p> <p>#familyfirst #takecareofothers</p>
<p>#195</p> <p>If a son strike his father, his hands shall be hewn off.</p>	<p>If a child strikes a parent, his or her hands shall be chopped off.</p> <p>#respectparents #familyrelationships</p>

Understanding the Code of Hammurabi

Professionals have spent a long time analyzing the 282 laws that are listed. As a result, professionals have found flaws in the laws. A flaw means that the law is not complete or fair, or the punishment does not fit the crime. Here are a few examples of reasons that professionals think the laws did not ultimately work.

Reason #1

The punishments were too strict for crimes that were not violent.

Reason #2

Punishments were different for people of different social classes. This means that rich people were more likely to be protected from punishment compared to poor people.

Reason #3

There were a TON of laws! It would be hard for people to remember all of the laws. It would also be hard for people to remember the laws if they didn't know how to read.

Teacher Prompts

Prompt #1:

Most societies have a group of leaders who decide if people are guilty of a crime. If you do not have a court system in place, like a judge or another leader who decides who is guilty of a crime, remove 100 people from your population. This is because people are killing each other and there isn't a court system in place to punish people.

Prompt #2:

Most societies have rules about how people conduct business. This means if you sign a contract with someone you have to honor it. Most societies also have rules that you cannot steal from someone else. You have to pay for any goods or services you use. If you do not have a law about how to have a business relationship with another person or laws about stealing, then remove 100 people from your population. This is because if you do not have these rules, people will get angry and start killing others. If you do have a rule on these issues, add 200 people.

Prompt #3

Most societies have a system for how people become leaders in their government. This can be through elections, marriage, or birth right, for example. If you do not have a system for how people become leaders in a government, remove 300 people. This is because without rules on how leaders come to power, there would likely be war among groups of people.

Prompt #4

Most societies have rules about citizens' rights. Examples of rights include freedom of speech, freedom to protest, freedom to practice religion. If you do not have laws on the rights citizens will have, remove 500 people. This is because people would rebel without rights. If you do have a law on citizens' rights, add 500 people.

Prompt #5

Most societies have laws about how children can be treated. For example, many societies have child labor laws or laws that children must attend school. If you do not have laws on how children are treated, remove 200 people. This is because many children would not survive without laws to protect them. If you do have a law on protecting children, add 200 people.

Prompt #6

Most societies have rules about what the government should provide citizens. For example, the government should provide health care or safety systems, like police officers and fire departments. If you do not have a law on this, remove 300 people. This is because many people would die without the help of government services. If you have a law on how the government needs to protect its citizens or provide services, add 300 people.