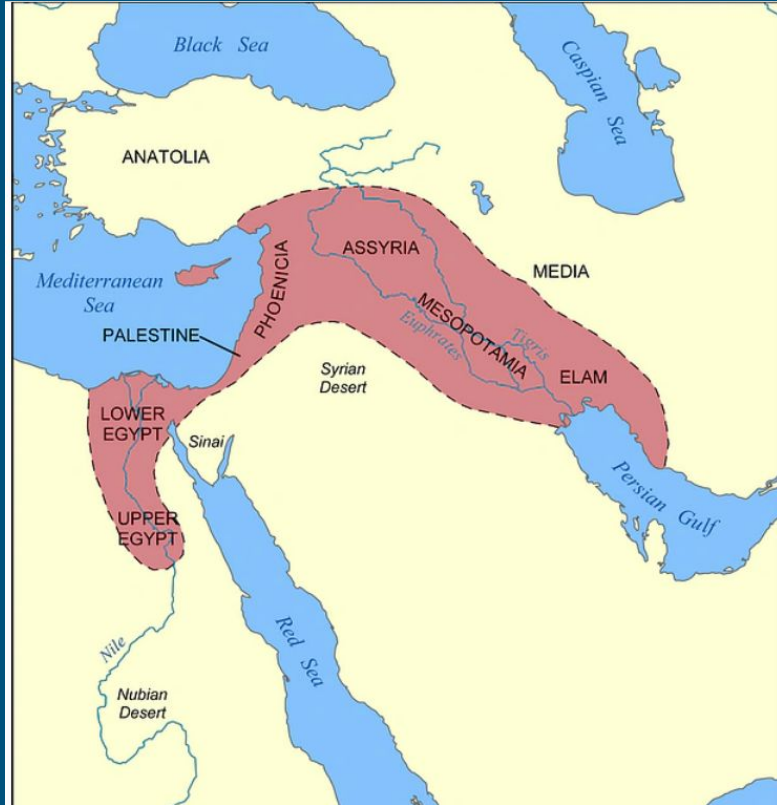


Historical Codes of Law

SS.7.CG.3.10: Identify sources and types of law.



Mesopotamia



Modern Day Iraq and Syria



Sources of Law Handout

Sources and Types of Law

Historical Sources	
Code of Hammurabi	1. What is the Code of Hammurabi?
	2. What is the connection between the Code of Hammurabi and the U.S. Constitution?

Code of Hammurabi

- The Code of Hammurabi is a written code of rules that guided the society of Babylon around 1772 B.C.
- The Code included 282 laws that dealt with everyday life. It was the first time a written set of laws governed a society.
- This act of writing laws down and creating a structure and process for laws greatly influenced how other societies developed their own laws.
- This is true for the U.S. and is evident by the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Constitution is a series of laws written to guide society in the United States.

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Magna Carta

- In order to avoid a war, King John of England signed the Magna Carta in 1215.
- The Magna Carta is also known as the Great Charter of Freedoms.
- The Magna Carta was written by a group of English nobility (barons) because they wanted to protect their rights and property against the king.
- During the American Revolution, the Magna Carta was one inspiration for the colonists to seek their independence from the king of England.
- The colonists believed they were entitled to the same rights as Englishmen, rights guaranteed in the Magna Carta. The colonists, and later founding fathers, embedded those rights into the laws of their states and later into the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Sources of Law Handout

Magna Carta	Notes from Class Discussion
	1. "No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned, ... nor will We proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers and by the law of the land."
	2. "... to no one will We deny or delay, right or justice."

Discuss and Respond

The core source of American law is the U.S. Constitution. Based on what you have learned about the Code of Hammurabi and the Magna Carta, how did these documents influence the U.S. Constitution?

Sources

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