

Sample Answers Sources and Types of Law

Directions: Work together as a class to discuss and reflect on the following questions. Use class notes to help you complete.

Historical Sources	
Code of Hammurabi	1. What is the Code of Hammurabi? a written code of rules that guided an ancient society around 1772 B.C., 282 laws that dealt with everyday life, it was a code that most likely inspired other civilizations
	2. What is the connection between the Code of Hammurabi and the U.S. Constitution? The Code of Hammurabi was the first set of written rules to govern a society, the U.S. Constitution is the written set of rules governing the United States.
Magna Carta	Notes from Class Discussion
	Notes will vary
	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."
	Freemen will be judged by the law of the land.
	2. "... to no one will We deny or delay, right or justice."
	Justice will not be denied to anyone.
Summary Statement about Historical Sources of Law & the U.S. Constitution	The U.S. Constitution was influenced by historical law codes. For example, the Hammurabi Code began the system of written laws and the Magna Carta was used as inspiration for some of the individual rights we have today.

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Directions: Read *Sources of Law* to understand the different sources of law. Mark text that helps you define the civics content vocabulary terms and then define the terms in your own words below.

Sources of Law	
Constitutional Law	The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and states can only create laws that do not conflict with the Constitution. As a type of law, constitutional law deals with issues between the federal government and states, between two or more states, and between the government and citizens.
Statutory Law	The Constitution gives Congress permission to pass laws about a limited number of topics. These laws are called statutes. These statutes apply to the entire United States.
Regulations	The rules that an agency of the executive branch makes are called regulations.
Case Law	Case law is law established by the outcome of former cases.
Common Law	Common law is legal precedent based on customs and prior legal decisions; it is used in civil cases.
Natural Law	Natural law is the belief that all humans have certain rights derived from nature rather than rules of society. The most known example of natural law was written into the Declaration of Independence stating, <i>“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”</i>
Summary Statement about Sources of Law:	Laws come from different sources. However the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. From the Constitution, statutes and regulations are created. Courts interpret laws and create case and common law.

Sample Answers Sources and Types of Law

Directions: Read *Types of Law* adapted from iCivics to understand the different types of law. Mark text that helps you define the civics content vocabulary terms and then define the terms in your own words below.

Types of Law	
Civil Law	Civil laws help settle disagreements between people. Civil laws deal with subjects such as: property, divorce, contracts, wills, personal injury, bankruptcy, employment, agriculture, and taxes.
Constitutional Law	Constitutional law defines the powers between states and deals with the relationship between the government and citizens.
Criminal Law	Criminal law makes certain actions a crime and comes from all three levels of government. Criminal law falls into two categories: felonies (serious crimes) and misdemeanors (less serious crimes). When someone breaks a criminal law, they are charged with a crime. When someone is brought to trial for a crime, the government is on one side charging the person with the crime and the person accused of the crime is called the defendant.
Juvenile Law	Juvenile law is for people under the age of 18 who commit a crime. The juvenile system is usually more flexible than the adult system, so that juveniles have more chances for young people to learn from their mistakes. There are also laws about school attendance, curfews and child abuse.
Military Law	Military laws are special laws for people in the U.S. military. Congress created the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which is a set of criminal laws that apply to people in the military. This code also includes procedures for a military trial and punishments. It also includes laws that are not needed for non-military laws.
Summary Statement about Types of Law:	There are different types of law in the United States. Constitutional law deals with issues related to the government, states and its citizens. Criminal law deals with crime and civil law deals with issues that are not related to crime. Juvenile law mainly deals with criminal law for people under the age of 18, as well as some other issues. Military law is especially for military members and has its own set of rules for criminal actions.