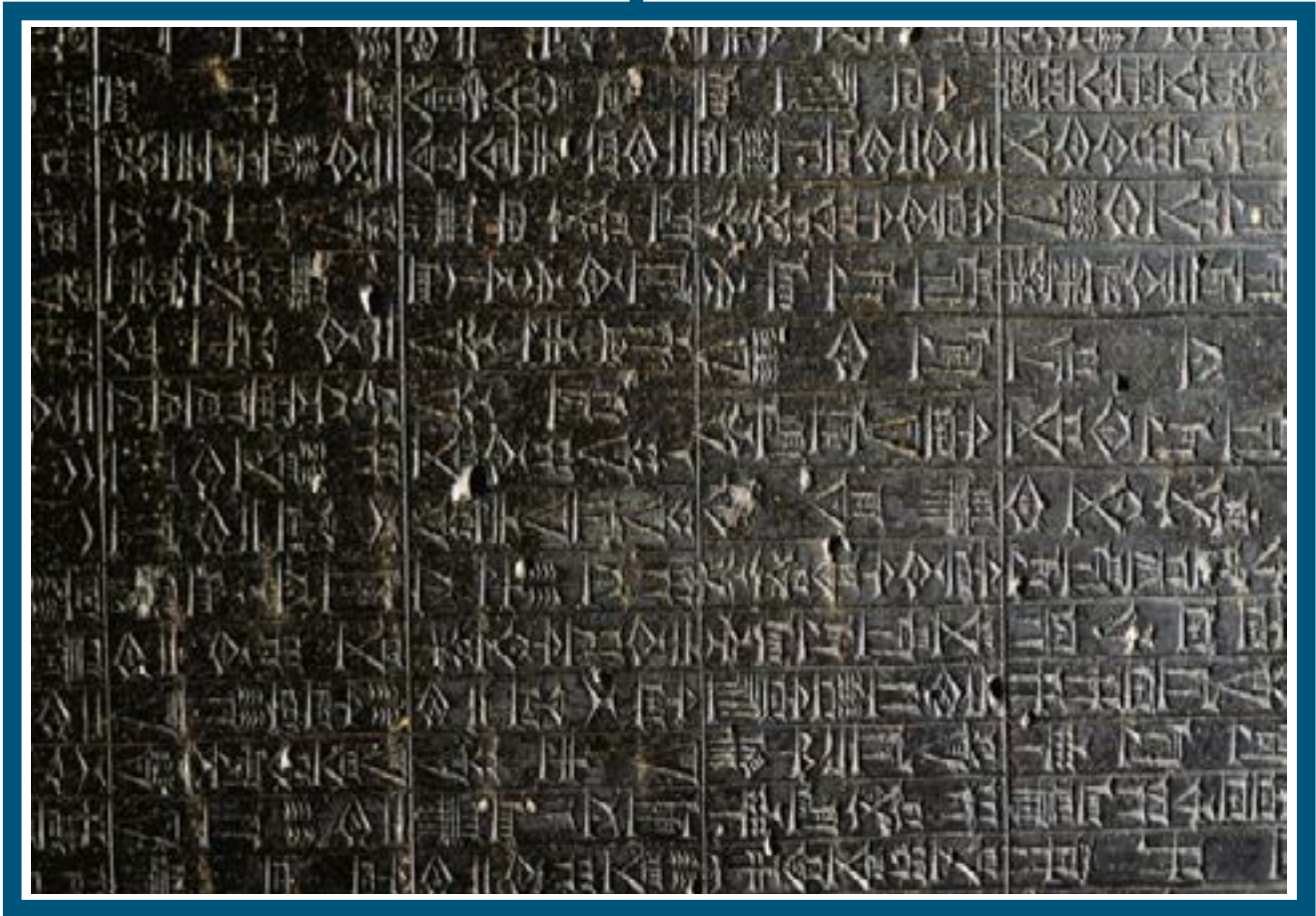


---

# Are We More or Less Civilized Than the People of the Past?



---

## Supporting Questions

1. What solutions do you think people developed to solve new problems?
2. What are Hammurabi's Code, Confessions by the Deceased, and the Constitution?
3. What can you infer about the main concerns or problems of each society?

# NORTHERN MICHIGAN INQUIRY HUB

## 7th Grade Inquiry

### Are We More or Less Civilized Than the People of the Past?

<b>Michigan Content Expectations:</b>	<p>7 – W2.1.1 Describe the importance of the development of human communication (oral, visual, and written) and its relationship to the development of culture.</p> <p><b>Examples may include but are not limited to:</b> standardization of physical (rock, bird) and abstract (love, fear) words. In addition, examples may include forms of non-verbal communication from pictographs to abstract writing (governmental administration, laws, codes, history, and artistic expressions).</p>
<b>Staging the Compelling Question:</b>	<p>Discuss what it means to be a civilized person.</p>

Supporting Question 1
<p>What solutions do you think people developed to solve new problems?</p>
Formative Performance Task
<p>Create a T-Chart listing the new problems civilizations dealt with and solutions developed to solve those new problems.</p>
Featured Sources
<p>Diorite Stele with Laws (Image) Book of the Dead (Image) The Constitution (Image)</p>

Supporting Question 2
<p>What are Hammurabi’s Code, Confessions by the Deceased, and the Constitution?</p>
Formative Performance Task
<p>Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting Hammurabi’s Code, Confessions by the Deceased, and the U.S. Constitution.</p>
Featured Sources
<p>Hammurabi’s Code of Laws Confession by the Deceased Constitution for the United States of America</p>

Supporting Question 3
<p>What can you infer about the main concerns or problems of each society?</p>
Formative Performance Task
<p>Write 1-2 paragraphs inferring the main concerns or problems of Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, and the United States.</p>
Featured Sources
<p>Hammurabi’s Code of Laws Confession by the deceased Constitution for the United States.</p>

<b>Summative Performance Task</b>	<p>Argument: Are we more or less civilized than the people of the past? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary sources while acknowledging competing views.</p>
-----------------------------------	---

## Overview

As students grapple with the history of the ancient world, this middle-level inquiry asks students to really compare the ancient past with our current state today by considering whether we are more or less civilized than people from the past. Student answers may change as they study a variety of primary and secondary source materials to help them understand the laws of the past and how some are (and aren't) still with us in various forms today.

## Supporting Question 1 Overview

Have students brainstorm potential new problems that developed as Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt grew in population and territory. The discuss what some potential solutions were to those new problems. Show students pictures of Hammurabi's Code, Confessions by the Deceased, and the U.S. Constitution.

## Supporting Question 2 and 3 Overview

You will read each of the documents (Hammurabi's Code, Confessions of the Deceased, and the U.S. Constitution). Students will compare and contrast the 3 documents to each other.

## Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source A



This is a plaster cast (or reproduction) of an original stela (made of diorite) in the collection of the Musée du Louvre, Paris. The original stela was one of several copies of the laws produced during the reign of King Hammurabi of Babylon (1792-1750 BCE). On the top of the stela, Hammurabi is portrayed receiving the emblems of rulership from the god of justice, the sun-god Shamash.

<http://teachmiddleeast.lib.uchicago.edu/historical-perspectives/the-question-of-identity/before-is-lam-mesopotamia/image-resource-bank/image-03.html>

## Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source B



The instructions to live after death in ancient Egypt were complicated. Written on papyrus, a copy of the Book of the Dead, which for 1,500 years served as the definitive guide to the afterlife, could span more than 30 feet.

After all, there was a lot of ground to cover: How to avoid demons on the way to the netherworld. The right names to address the gatekeeper as you drew near to the gates. Protection from crocodiles, snakes and scorpions. And defense against a closer threat: Your own heart spilling secrets and betraying you during your judgment by Osiris, the god of death.

Beginning this fall and through the spring of 2018, visitors can explore the Book of the Dead at a special exhibit at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago. The exhibit showcases how religious beliefs shaped the lives and material culture in Egypt over a period of more than a thousand years, from 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100.

[https://www.uchicago.edu/features/how\\_to\\_live\\_after\\_death\\_in\\_ancient\\_egypt/](https://www.uchicago.edu/features/how_to_live_after_death_in_ancient_egypt/)

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source C



## Supporting Questions 2 and 3 - Featured Source A

Source A Hammurabi's Code: <http://iws.collin.edu/mbailey/hammurabi's%20laws.htm>

1. If any one accuses another of murder but cannot prove it, then the accuser shall be put to death
3. If any one brings an accusation that involves a capital murder charge and does not prove what he has charged, the accuser shall be put to death.
21. If anyone breaks into a house to steal, he will be put to death before that point of entry and be buried there (walled into the house).
22. If anyone is caught while committing a robbery, then s/he shall be put to death
53. If any one be too lazy to keep his dam in proper condition, and if the dam then breaks and all the fields get flooded, then whoever let the dam break shall be sold for money (enslaved), and the money shall replace the crops which he has caused to be ruined.
117. If anyone fails to repay a debt, and sell himself, his wife, his son, and daughter for money or give them away to forced labor: they shall work for three years in the house of the man who bought them, or the proprietor, and in the fourth year they shall be set free.
195. If a son strikes his father, his hands shall be cut off.
196. If a man put out the eye of a nobleman (amelu), his eye shall be put out. [An eye for an eye ]
200. If a man knocks out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out. [tooth for a tooth]
202. If any one strikes the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.
206. If during a quarrel one man strikes another and wound him, then he shall swear, "I did not injure him on purpose," and pay the physicians.
209. If a man strikes a free-born woman so that she loses her unborn child, he shall pay ten shekels for her loss

## Supporting Questions 2 and 3 - Featured Source B

From The Book of the Dead (about 1500 BCE).

In ancient Egypt, many laws were common knowledge. The following document could be seen as evidence of law. As you read, jot down an example of the law that is hinted at with each line. This is an example of what a deceased person would confess to the God of the Dead who would judge the quality of his/her afterlife.

Hail to you, O great god, judge of the dead! I know your name, and that of the forty-two gods with you who punish evildoers on the day of reckoning. Lord of Justice is your name. I have come to you; I have brought you justice; I have expelled deceit for you.

I have not committed evil against men.

I have not mistreated cattle.

I have not blasphemed a god.

I have not defamed a slave to his superior.

I have not made anyone weep.

I have not killed.

I have given no order to a killer.

I have not added to the weight of the balance.

I have not built a dam against running water.

I am pure! I am pure! I am pure!

I have not stolen.

I have not been greedy or envious.

I have not told lies.

I have not practiced usury.

I have not gossiped.

I have not committed adultery.

I have not been quarrelsome.

I have not been abusive.



## Supporting Questions 2 and 3 - Featured Source C

Article [I] (Amendment 1 - Freedom of expression and religion) 13

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article [II] (Amendment 2 - Bearing Arms)

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article [IV] (Amendment 4 - Search and Seizure)

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article [V] (Amendment 5 - Rights of Persons)

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article [VI] (Amendment 6 - Rights of Accused in Criminal Prosecutions)

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article [VII] (Amendment 7 - Civil Trials)

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article [VIII] (Amendment 8 - Further Guarantees in Criminal Cases)

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article [IX] (Amendment 9 - Unenumerated Rights)

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article [X] (Amendment 10 - Reserved Powers)

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.