

MESOPOTAMIA

HAMMURABI

After developing their writing system, the people of Mesopotamia began writing down their laws. A well known set of Mesopotamian laws was written by a man named Hammurabi, who was the King of Babylon.

Through his laws, Hammurabi brought peace and prosperity to his people. His laws cover every aspect of daily life, including the buying and selling of land, trade, and family life. In total, his code consisted of 282 laws.

Each law in Hammurabi's code had a set punishment. They were based on the idea of "an eye for an eye"; Hammurabi felt that each punishment should fit each crime. He felt that strong punishments would deter people from committing crimes to begin with.

The code of laws developed by Hammurabi was an important innovation, as it was the first step towards the creation of a society where everyone's rights were recognized.

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List some key facts about Hammurabi's laws in the space below.

Do you think strong punishments scare people into obeying the law? Explain your answer.

Illustrate something to help you remember these facts.

