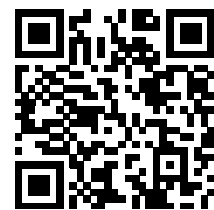


name: \_\_\_\_\_

class: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Exploring Ancient Middle Eastern Law



In ancient times, the \_\_\_\_\_ was a cradle of civilization, where various societies developed the first forms of written \_\_\_\_\_. These legal systems were designed to maintain order, ensure justice, and regulate \_\_\_\_\_ within their communities. One of the earliest and most influential of these was the Code of \_\_\_\_\_, established by the Babylonian king Hammurabi. This code was carved onto a massive \_\_\_\_\_ stele, making it visible to all. It contained laws that covered almost every aspect of daily life, from \_\_\_\_\_ and theft to marriage and personal injury. The laws were based on the principle of \_\_\_\_\_, or the law of retaliation, where the punishment often mirrored the crime, as in the famous phrase "an eye for an \_\_\_\_\_." However, the application of these laws could vary significantly depending on the social \_\_\_\_\_ of the individuals involved. For instance, the penalty for injuring a \_\_\_\_\_ was more severe than for injuring a commoner. This system of laws was not isolated to \_\_\_\_\_ but influenced neighboring regions and later civilizations. The Egyptians, for instance, had their own set of laws focused on \_\_\_\_\_ and maat (harmony), which emphasized social \_\_\_\_\_ and responsibility to the community. In addition to codified laws, there were also \_\_\_\_\_ who played a crucial role in interpreting the laws and deciding on \_\_\_\_\_. Their decisions would help shape the evolving legal \_\_\_\_\_ of the Middle East, laying the groundwork for modern legal systems. Through these ancient \_\_\_\_\_, we see the early attempts at establishing a structured society, where the welfare of the \_\_\_\_\_ was placed above individual interests.

judges stone Babylon behavior cases laws status law noble Middle East  
morality lex talionis Hammurabi community equity traditions trade eye