**Teacher’s Copy of Comparison and Analysis of the Rule of Law in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Israel**

**MESOPOTAMIA VS ISRAEL – The Code of Hammurabi vs The Torah**

*Below is one law from the Code of Hammurabi and one from the Torah.*

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| ***If someone breaks another’s bone, they shall break their bone.***   * Hammurabi’s Code (c. 1700 BCE) | ***Foot for foot, hand for hand, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life.***   * The Torah (c. 700 BCE) |

**Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

1. What does each law mean?

**HAMMURABI’S CODE: *If a person hurts someone else, then they will be hurt the same way.***

**TORAH: *If a person hurts someone else, then they will be hurt the same way.***

1. How are these laws similar? **Student answers will vary. Answers should address something similar to the following: *These laws are similar because both deal with the idea of equality or equal justice or equal punishment (i.e. if someone hurts someone else, then they will be hurt the same way).***
2. Why do you think these laws are similar? **Student answers will vary. Their answers should reflect one of the following:**

* **Mesopotamia and Israel are right next to each other, so they may have influenced each other.**
* **Mesopotamia is located east of Israel (or Israel is located west of Mesopotamia), so they may have influenced each other.**

1. How does each law connect to the rule of law? **\*\*The definition of the rule of law for reference: *the idea of equality under the law where everyone is equal and must follow the same laws and rules.\*\** Student answers will vary. Answers similar to the following should be accepted:**

**HAMMURABI’S CODE: *Everyone is treated the same and has to follow the rules.***

**TORAH: *Everyone is treated the same and has to follow the rules.***

1. Which law shows a specific punishment related to a specific crime? **Student answers will vary. Something similar to the following should be accepted: *both laws show a specific punishment related to a specific crime because both say that if a specific attack or crime occurs, then the attacker/criminal will have the same action done to them as punishment.***
2. In the United States, specific crimes come with specific punishments. How is that reflected in these two ancient laws and codes? **Student answers will vary. Something similar to the following should be accepted: *both laws also show a specific punishment provided for a specific crime because if a specific attack or crime happens, then the attacker or criminal will have the same action done to them as punishment.***

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**EGYPT VS ISRAEL – The 42 Laws of Maat vs the Ten Commandments**

*Below are select laws and rules from the 42 Laws of Maat and the Ten Commandments.*

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| **You must not commit sin.**  **You must not murder men or women.**  **You must not steal.**  **You must not steal from the gods and goddesses.**  **You must not curse anyone in thoughts, words, or actions.**   * The 42 Laws of Maat, the Goddess of Justice (c. 2900 BCE) | **You must not worship any other gods before the Lord.**  **You must not take the Lord’s name in vain.**  **You must not murder.**  **You must not steal.**  **You must not lie or envy.**   * The Ten Commandments (c. 1500 – 1200 BCE) |

**Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

1. How are these laws different? **Here are some sample answers:**

**LAWS OF MAAT: *The laws mention both gods and goddesses because the Egyptians believed in many deities. The laws specifically say not to kill men and women.***

**TORAH: *The laws mention one God called the Lord because the Israelites believed in one deity. The laws say not to kill at all.***

1. How are these laws and rules similar? **Student answers will vary. Answers should address something similar to the following:  *These laws are similar because both say not to steal or kill anyone. There are also multiple rules about respecting the deities each believe in.***
2. Why do you think these laws are similar? **Student answers will vary. Their answers should reflect one of the following:**

* ***Egypt and Israel are right next to each other, so they may have influenced each other.***
* ***Egypt is located south of Israel (or Israel is located north of Egypt), so they may have influenced each other.***

1. How does each set of laws connect to the rule of law? **Student answers will vary. Answers similar to the following should be accepted:**

**LAWS OF MAAT: *Egyptians are expected to follow these rules or they will upset the gods, and the rule of law is the belief that everyone must follow the same rules/laws.***

**TORAH: *Israelites/Hebrews are expected to follow these rules or they are disobeying God/the Lord, and the rule of law is the belief that everyone must follow the same rules/laws.***

1. Do these laws show specific punishments related to crimes? **No, these laws and rules do not provide specific punishments. They only say what people should not do, not what will happen to them if they do it.**
2. In the United States, specific crimes come with specific punishments. How is that reflected in these two ancient laws and codes? ***These laws do not provide specific punishments, but the United States has similar laws against robbery/theft, murder, and more with specific punishments.***