

# The Significance of Legal Foundations

The history and heritage of our legal system is the culmination of many historical events, people, agreements, ideas, and developments. Each has contributed in some way to our modern legal system, or to the overall development of the concepts of law and justice. With this task you will get the chance to explore how these developments have worked together, and determine which are the most significant.

You will select **3-5** legal developments and research those topics. Once you have the basic factual information you will utilize your legal thinking skills to explain why each of your selected topics is Legally Significant and how they have worked together, or built off of each other to advance a **common legal theme**.

## Task Requirements:

- **Completed research template.**
- Proper MLA style bibliography with at least **3 different sources**.
- **Product** that communicates your findings, and evaluation of your chosen topics.
  - The **product** can be:
    - A Rank and Justify Organizer
    - A Concept Web
    - A Timeline
    - Other (pending approval)
- **In-class response question** about your product and what you have presented.

## **Some Potential Topics:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The Code of Hammurabi                      | 13. UNDRIP  |
| 2. Cyrus the Great                            | 14. Islamic Law                                       |
| 3. The Magna Carta                            | 15. Canon Law of the Catholic Church                  |
| 4. Mosaic Law                                 | 16. Inuit Law   |
| 5. British North America Act                  | 17. Common Law  |
| 6. Ancient Greek Law                          | 18. The Nuremberg Trials                              |
| 7. Ancient Roman Law                          | 19. The Quebec Civil Code                             |
| 8. The Napoleonic Code                        | 20. The U.S. Constitution                             |
| 9. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms         | 21. The Scopes Monkey Trial                           |
| 10. The International Criminal Court          | 22. The Constitution of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy |
| 11. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights | 23. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission           |
| 12. Natural Law                               |   |

## **Potential Themes:**

Legal Philosophy	Sentencing	Legislation and Implementation
Social Values in Law	Punishment	Effects on Marginalized Groups
Religious/Spiritual Laws	Legal Principles	Human Rights

This is not just about reporting what happened but also analyzing the ways in which affected society, and the consequences that laws had for the people at the time and in the future

**Task Requirements:**

1. Completed research template.
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3. Product that communicates your findings, and evaluation of your chosen topics.
4. In-class response question about your product and what you have presented.

<b>KNOWLEDGE</b> - Understanding of content (e.g., concepts, ideas, theories, interrelationships, procedures, processes, methodologies, spatial technologies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear summary of the different events.</li></ul>		
<b>THINKING</b> - Use of planning skills (e.g., organizing an inquiry; formulating questions; gathering and organizing data, evidence, and information; setting goals; focusing research) <i>The “thinking” component of the assessment will come from your Research Synthesis Template</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence is selected thoughtfully, with attention paid to the historical development of law and legal processes.</li></ul>		
<b>COMMUNICATION</b> - Expression and organization of ideas and information (e.g., clear expression, logical organization) in oral, visual, and written forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response to in-class prompts effectively addresses the question being asked.</li><li>• Choice of how legal significance is demonstrated in your final product.</li></ul>		
<b>APPLICATION</b> - Making connections within and between various contexts (e.g., between topics/issues being studied and everyday life; between disciplines; between past, present, and future contexts; in different spatial, cultural, or environmental contexts; in proposing and/or taking action to address related issues; in making predictions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysis of evidence demonstrates how the legal topic is significant and has contributed to your selected theme.</li></ul>		