

Early Empires

Before You Read: Knowledge Rating

Recognizing what you already know about each of these terms can help you understand the chapter:

Fertile Crescent tribute toleration

In your notebook, rate how well you know each term:

3 = I know what this word means.

2 = I've seen this word before, but I don't know what it means.

1 = I've never seen this word before.

Define each term in your notebook as you read.

Big Ideas About Early Empires

Government Governments create law codes and political bodies to organize a society.

As societies grew, new ways of governing developed to provide people with safety and security. During the early empires, leaders developed law codes to bring fair laws to societies. The leaders also set up new ways to organize and rule vast lands with many different groups of people.

Integrated Technology

eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Starting with a Story

INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to ClassZone.com for

- WebQuest
- Homework Helper
- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Quizzes
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events



Cyprus

Mediterranean Sea

Syrian Desert

Jordan River

Dead Sea



EARLY EMPIRES

WORLD

2334 B.C.
Sargon builds an empire.

1792 B.C.
Hammurabi's Code developed in Babylonian Empire. (statue of Hammurabi) ▶

1850 B.C.

1650 B.C.

1450 B.C.

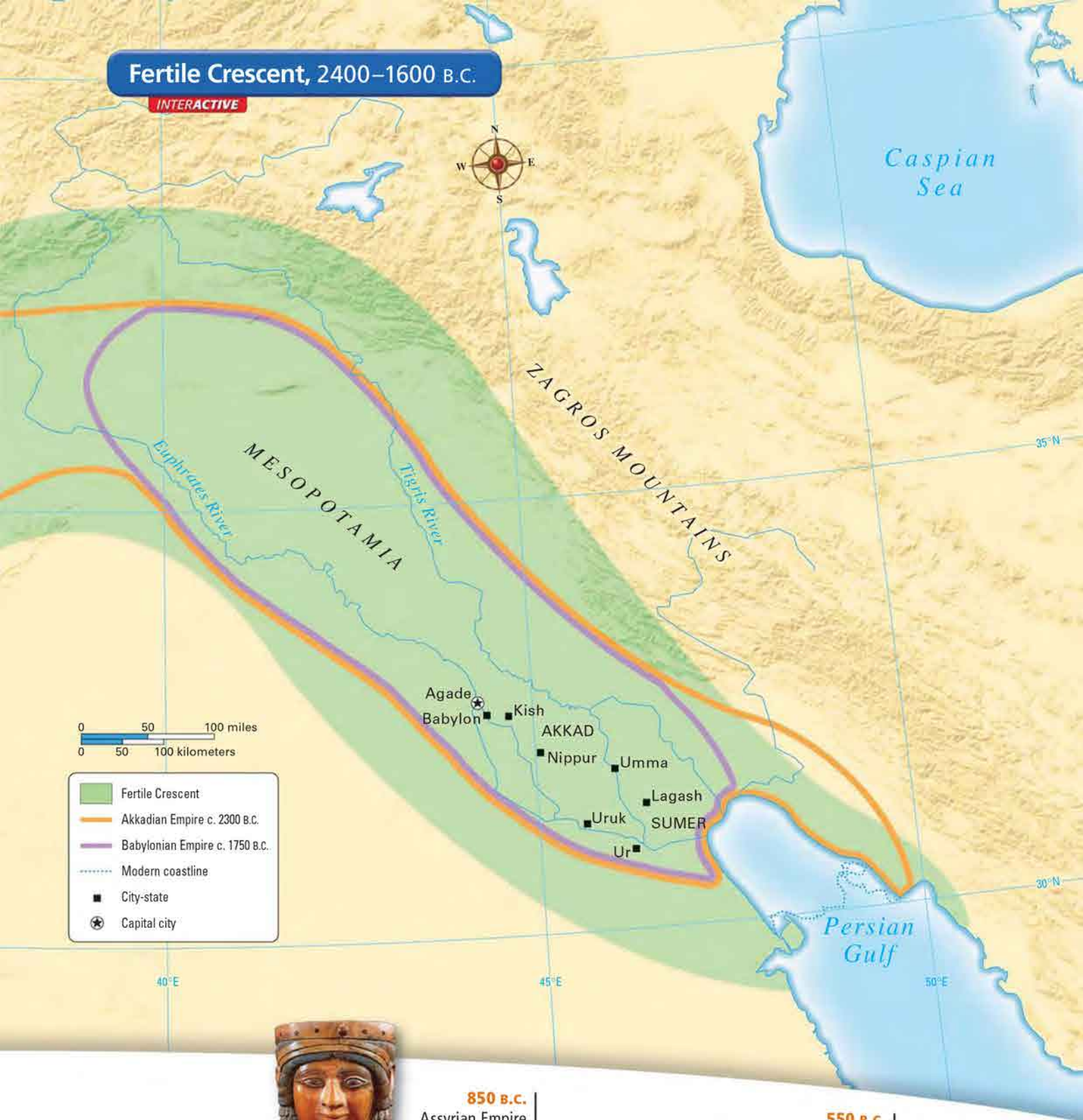


1700 B.C.
Indus River Valley civilization declines. ◀ (Harappan seal)

1570 B.C.
The New Kingdom in Egypt begins.

Fertile Crescent, 2400–1600 B.C.

INTERACTIVE



850 B.C.
Assyrian Empire
reaches its peak.
◀ (ivory head)

550 B.C.
Persian Empire is
largest in world.

1050 B.C.

850 B.C.

650 B.C.



1027 B.C.
Zhou Dynasty is
founded in China.
◀ (bronze vessel)

750 B.C.
Greek city-states
flourish.

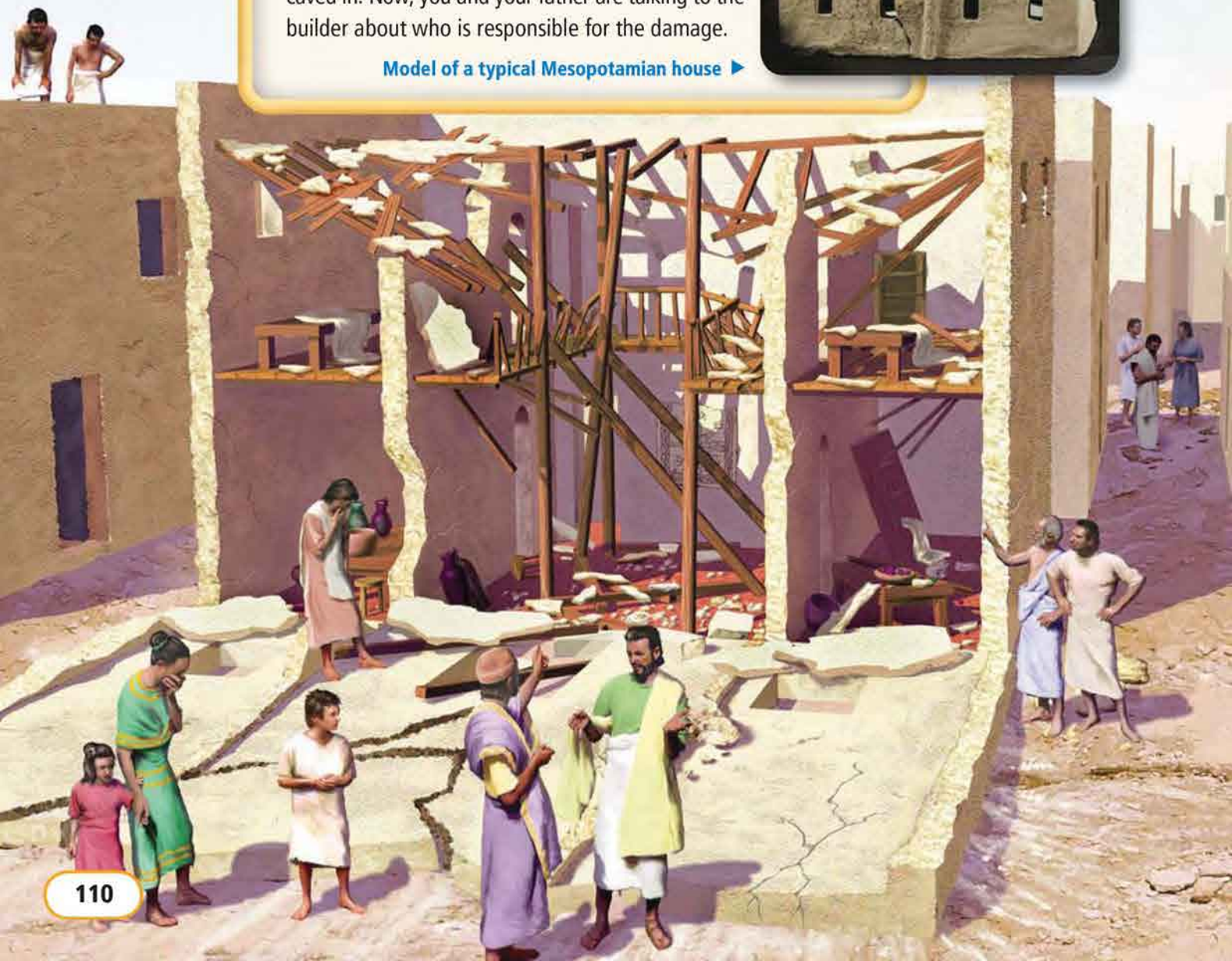


500 B.C.
Zapotec civilization
grows in Mexico.
◀ (Zapotec urn)

Day of Misfortune

Background: To build unity in his empire, Hammurabi, the ruler of Babylon, created a set of laws that applied to all people in the empire. The laws covered acts that affected the community, such as business conduct and crime. Imagine that you live in a brand-new house in the Babylonian Empire. Unfortunately, the roof of the house has caved in. Now, you and your father are talking to the builder about who is responsible for the damage.

Model of a typical Mesopotamian house ►



My father pointed to the house and said to the builder, “You can see the damage.” I stood with them in front of our ruined house. The roof of our new house had a huge hole in it. The roof supports had fallen through the second floor and into the first floor.

My father turned to me. “Stay here, son,” he said. He took the builder inside with him. They looked up at the sky from the first floor.

I could tell that my father was getting angry. The builder seemed not to care. “You made mistakes when you built my house,” my father told him, his voice rising. “I paid you the right number of shekels, so you have to rebuild at your expense.” “No,” the builder snapped. His face looked mean. I watched his shifty eyes as he snarled, “There’s nothing that says I have to do it.”

“Oh, yes there is!” cried my father. “The code of laws by King Hammurabi says a builder has to make repairs at his own expense if a house falls down. Not only that, the law says you have to pay for everything that was damaged in the house.”

My father kept talking to the builder. “You are lucky no one was home at the time. If the collapse had killed me, by law you would have been put to death.” For the first time, the builder looked a bit worried.

“If my son, here, had been killed, your son would have had to die.” My father seemed to be getting somewhere now. The builder looked more worried.

The builder started to back away from us. Then he started running. “Stop! Come back here!” my father shouted at him. I turned to my father. “Isn’t he going to obey the code of law? What do we do next?”

Why are laws necessary?

Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Theme** A theme is the subject or idea that a story is about. Look at the illustration and think about the question at the end of the story. Talk with a partner to decide what the theme of this story is. As you read other stories in this book, watch to see if this theme recurs.
- 2. WRITING: Persuasion** Imagine that you are the father in this story. Write a persuasive speech listing your complaints about the builder of your house. Then present your speech to your classmates.

Lesson

1

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Geography** Powerful city-states expanded to control much of Mesopotamia.
- 2 **Government** Babylon built a large empire in the Fertile Crescent.
- 3 **Government** Hammurabi created one of the first codes of law.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Summarizing

Summarizing means restating the main idea and important details about a subject. As you read Lesson 1, make a summary statement about each of the topics listed. Record them on a list of your own.

Topic	Statement
Geography	
A strong king	
A law code	

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R3



▲ Bust of Sargon Sargon of Akkad created the world's first empire 4,500 years ago.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

ambitious eager to gain success, fame, or power (page 113)

*Many Mesopotamian leaders were **ambitious**, but few were as successful as Sargon of Akkad.*

pattern a series of events that occur repeatedly (page 114)

*The decline, as well as the creation, of empires is an important historical **pattern**.*

governor a person chosen to rule over a colony or territory (page 114)

*Emperors selected **governors** who would carry out the emperors' policies.*

class a group of persons that are usually alike in some way (page 115)

*The upper **class** of a society usually has more wealth, resources, and power than do other classes.*

Mesopotamian Empires

TERMS & NAMES

empire
emperor
Fertile Crescent
Hammurabi
code of law
justice

Build on What You Know How big is the state where you live? What kinds of activities take place in the capital of your state? Most of the Mesopotamian city-states were smaller than the state you live in. The city-states were centers of culture and power.

The First Empire Builders

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Who controlled Mesopotamia?

From about 3000 to 2000 B.C., ambitious kings of the city-states of Sumer fought over land. The land was flat and easy to invade. More land would give more wealth and power to the king. However, no single king was able to control all of the city-states in Mesopotamia.

Sargon Builds an Empire About 2350 B.C., a powerful leader named Sargon took control of both northern and southern Mesopotamia. Sargon of Akkad is known as the creator of the first empire in world history. An **empire** brings together many different peoples and lands under the control of one ruler. The person who rules is called an **emperor**.

Sumerian Ruins
Doorways are visible in these ruins of the once important Sumerian city of Uruk. ▼



The Akkadian Empire Sargon's empire was called the Akkadian Empire. Eventually, Sargon ruled over lands that stretched in a curve from the Mediterranean Sea through Mesopotamia to the Persian Gulf. This region is called the **Fertile Crescent** (see map on page 109). Unlike the dry region around it, the Fertile Crescent had rich soil and water that made the area good for farming.

Sargon's conquests helped to spread Akkadian ideas and ways of life. One of the most important ideas shared in the empire was the Akkadian system of writing.

The creation of an empire is a pattern that repeats in history. Empires are important because they change the way people live. They may bring peace to the peoples there. They encourage trade, which makes more goods available. Empires often include people from several cultures. The ideas, technology, and customs of the different peoples may be shared by all.

REVIEW How do empires change the lives of people who live in them?

The Babylonian Empire

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Which empires ruled the Fertile Crescent?

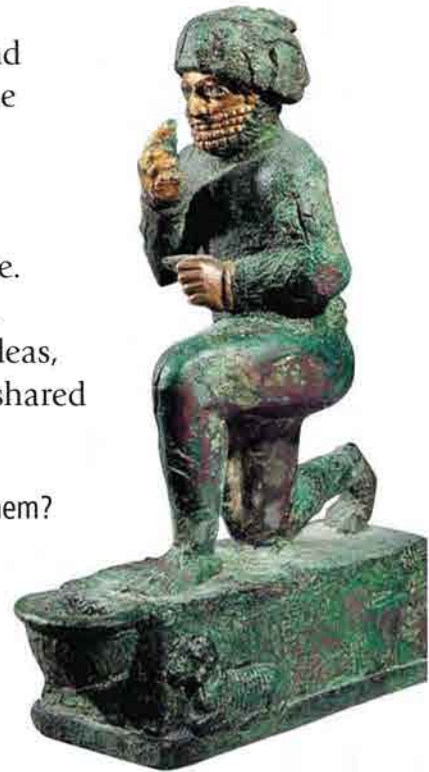
The empire of Akkad lasted for about 200 years. It fell apart because of attacks by outside peoples. Fighting also took place among city-states within the empire.

Babylonians Expand About 2000 B.C., people known as the Amorites began to invade and take control of the city-states of Sumer. They chose the city of Babylon, which was located on the Euphrates River, for their capital.

From 1792 to 1750 B.C., a powerful Amorite king named **Hammurabi** (HAM•uh•RAH•bee) ruled the Babylonian Empire. Hammurabi expanded control over many city-states. Soon, his empire stretched across Mesopotamia and other parts of the Fertile Crescent.

Hammurabi used governors to help him control the lands. He sent out people to collect tax money and appointed judges to help keep order. Hammurabi also watched over agriculture, irrigation, trade, and the construction of buildings.

REVIEW How did Hammurabi control his huge empire?



▲ Statue of Hammurabi
This statue from about 1760 B.C. shows Hammurabi praying.

Hammurabi's Law Code

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why did Hammurabi create a law code?

Hammurabi ruled a vast empire of many peoples with different ideas, ways of life, and sets of laws. He needed a set of rules that all his people could obey.

A Code of Laws Hammurabi believed a **code of law** would help to control the empire. A code of law is a set of written rules for people to obey. He sent out people to collect the existing rules. After studying these rules, Hammurabi put together a single code of law. The code, written in cuneiform, was displayed on huge pillars near a temple.

P Primary Source Handbook
See the excerpt from the Code of Hammurabi, page R38.

Justice for All The code's goal was to bring **justice**, fair treatment of people, to the people. In addition to identifying acts of wrongdoing, the code gave rights to people living in the land. Even women and children had rights, which was not the case in many ancient cultures. Punishments were different for each social class. (See Primary Source below.)

Primary Source

Background: Hammurabi's Code is sometimes called the "eye for an eye" code. It included 282 laws covering business, property, and conduct toward other people. The laws help us understand what was important to the people in Hammurabi's empire.

This scene is from the upper section of a pillar with the law code of Hammurabi. The laws were written on the lower section so that people could see them. ►



from Code of Hammurabi

Translated by L. W. King

- 195. If a son strike his father, his hands shall be hewn [cut off].
- 196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.
- 197. If a man break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.
- 202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.
- 204. If a freed man strike the body of another freed man, he shall pay ten shekels in money.
- 205. If the slave of a freed man strike the body of a freed man, his ear shall be cut off.

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What do the laws tell you about justice at the time?

Hammurabi's Legacy The code established the idea that the government should provide protection and justice for the people. Hammurabi wanted to replace the belief in personal revenge as a way of solving problems. Hammurabi's Code set out the belief that society should be run by the rule of law. That means the law should be applied to all people, not just a few. By placing the laws on pillars where they could be seen, it also suggests everyone has a right to know the laws and the punishments for breaking them.

REVIEW What was the purpose of Hammurabi's Code?

Lesson Summary

- Sargon of Akkad built an empire of many different peoples under one ruler and one government.
- Hammurabi expanded the Babylonian Empire and brought its peoples together by wise government.
- Hammurabi created a single code of law that set up well-defined rules of treatment for all.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Hammurabi's Code established the idea that rule of law is an important part of society. Rule of law that guarantees fair treatment is practiced in most countries today.

1 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- | | | |
|---------|------------------|-------------|
| empire | Fertile Crescent | code of law |
| emperor | Hammurabi | justice |

Using Your Notes

Summarizing Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. How does a strong king become an emperor?

Topic	Statement
Geography	
A strong king	
A law code	



Main Ideas

3. Which empires gained control of the Fertile Crescent?
4. Why did Hammurabi think his empire needed a single code of law?
5. What basic ideas about the law did Hammurabi's Code set up?

Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** How did the geography of Mesopotamia affect the history of the region?
7. **Drawing Conclusions** Why is the development of Hammurabi's Code an important landmark in the growth of civilization?

Activity

Creating a Code of Law Develop a code of law for use in your classroom. Include penalties for failing to meet the rules. Have classmates compare your list with theirs.