

Civilizations of the Ancient World  
MEETING 5  
**Semitic Mesopotamia**

- *Gilgamesh and Humbaba*
- *Akkad and Sargon*
- *Babylon and Hammurabi*
- *Writing systems*

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**Upcoming dates**

- Tuesday, February 18 No class meeting (Monday classes)
- Monday, March 10 Gilgamesh essay due  
upload to BlackBoard by midnight
- Tuesday, March 18 Midterm Exam  
during our regular class meeting, in this room
- Sunday, February 16 Post your Week 3 responses

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**Four things today**

- 1 Gilgamesh and Humbaba
- 2 Akkad and Sargon
- 3 Babylon and Hammurabi
- 4 Writing systems

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**Quiz #1: Semitic Mesopotamia**

- All of the following are true of Sargon [\[1/1/17\]](#)
  - He claimed to be the lover of Ishtar
  - He was king of the Akkadians
  - He ruled weakly and passively
  - He established the first Near Eastern empire
- The Old Babylonian Empire was known for [\[1/1/17\]](#)
  - Mathematics and astronomy
  - Romance novels
  - Inventing an early form of baseball
  - Lasting for thousands of years
- All of the following are true of the Code of Hammurabi [\[1/1/17\]](#)
  - It was a compilation of laws relating to civil and criminal procedures
  - Its penalties were harsher than older laws
  - It helped to unify the empire by placing it under a single legal system
  - The three classes—noble, free, and slave—were treated exactly equally
- The Indo-European people who settled in central Anatolia (modern Turkey) were the [\[1/1/17\]](#)
  - Hittites
  - Minosites
  - Kassites
  - Sumerites
- All of the following are true of the Indo-Europeans [\[1/1/17\]](#)
  - They were originally nomads
  - They were pastoral (animal herders)
  - They never migrated anywhere and all its tribes stayed in their homeland until they died out
  - Their language was the origin of many related later languages, including Persian, Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit

EC. Give an example of one of the punishments you remember from the Code of Hammurabi.

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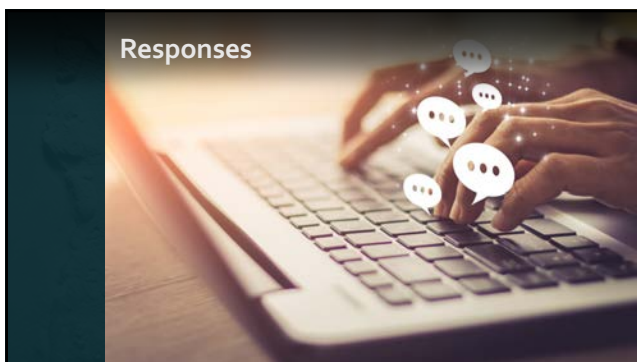
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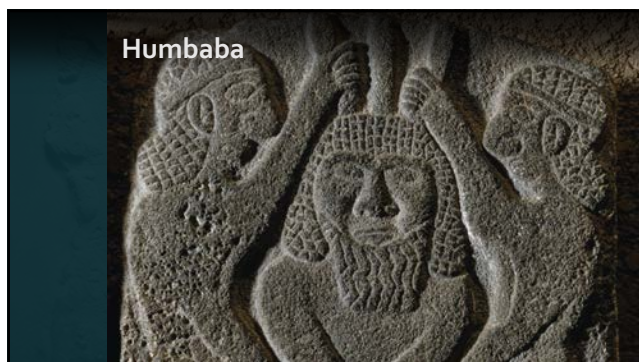
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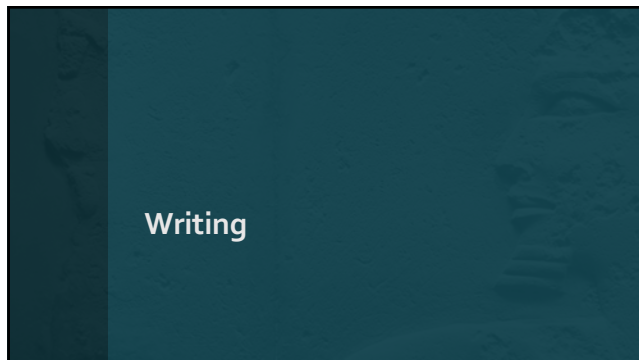
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### Forms of writing

PICTOGRAPHS	SYLLABARIES	ALPHABETS
Each character represents a word or a concept	Each character represents a syllable (consonant + vowel)	Each character represents a sound
 <small>Cuneiform</small>	 <small>Linear B</small>	 <small>Greek</small>
 <small>Hieroglyphs</small>	 <small>Aramaic-Cypriot</small>	 <small>Arcado-Cypriot</small>

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### Cuneiform

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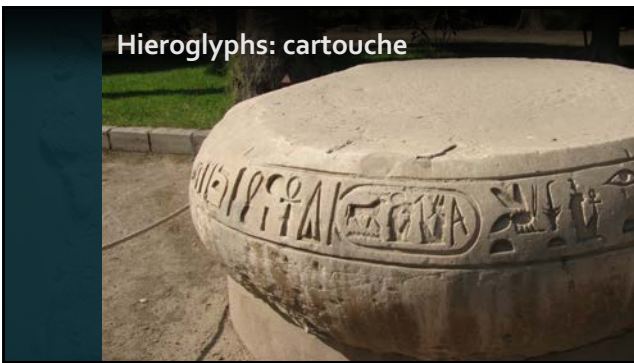
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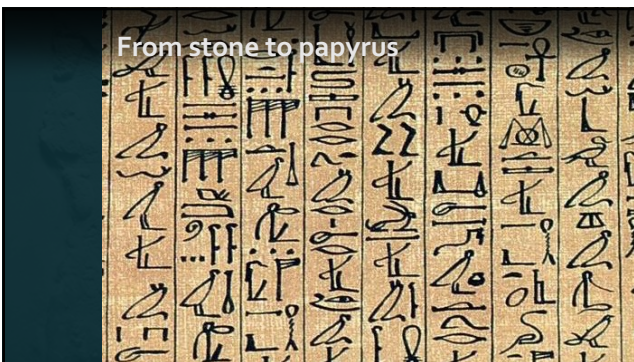
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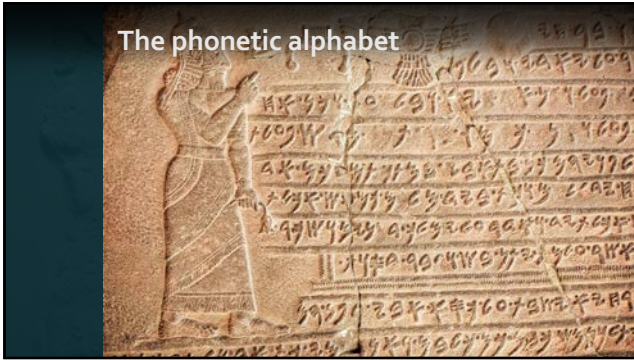
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The phonetic alphabet

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Semitic peoples of Southwest Asia

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Fertile Crescent

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## Sargon's Empire

- Control of distant resources
- Political unity
  - Connecting disparate peoples
  - Autocratic rule
  - Defortification of cities
- Economic unity
  - Goods
  - Access to resources not available locally
  - Ideas
- Vassalage
- Succession

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## Babylon

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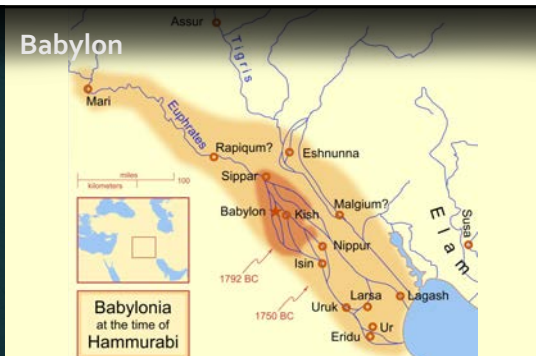
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## Babylon



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### Importance of the Code

- Unified legal system emphasizes benefits of empire
- Consistent rules for guilt and sentencing
  - From city to city
  - From judge to judge
- Public law
- State supersedes family

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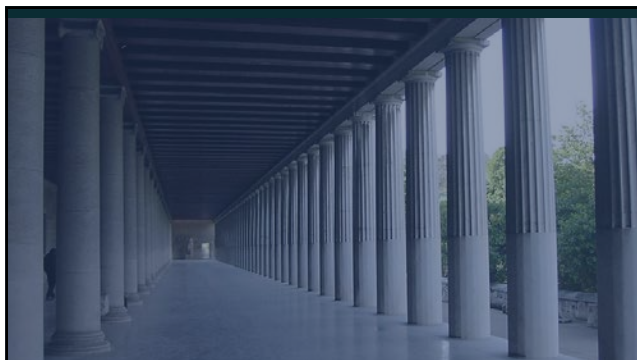
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