



The Judicial Branch and Legal System: SS.7.CG.3.10
Sources and Types of Law
READING #1

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.3.10 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will explain how historical codes of law influenced the United States.

The **Code of Hammurabi** was a written code of rules in the ancient society of Babylon that dates back to 1772 B.C. Hammurabi's code included 282 laws. Each crime was given a specific punishment, depending on a person's social position. These laws created order and guided people in their everyday lives. Other societies, including the United States, have used the Code of Hammurabi to develop their laws.

The **Magna Carta** was a government document that limited the power of the King of England. It was written by a group of English nobles in 1215 and protected the rights of the nobility (the highest class of people in England). Much later, the American colonists thought they should have the same rights as Englishmen. Some of the rights in the Magna Carta were written into the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. One example is the Fifth Amendment's **due process** clause.

Code of Hammurabi - a written code of rules that guided the ancient society of Babylon; dates back to 1772 B.C.

due process - the right of people accused of crimes to have laws that treat them fairly, so that they cannot lose their life or freedom without having their legal rights protected

Magna Carta - a government document that limited the power of the king of England and protected the rights of the nobility; written by the English nobles in 1215