

The background is a detailed parchment map of the world, showing continents and oceans. A large, empty rectangular frame is superimposed over the map. In the top right corner of the map, there is a circular emblem containing a stylized sun or flame. The word 'Babylonia' is written in a large, bold, black serif font in the center of the rectangular frame.

# Babylonia

# Key Terms

**Empire** – many territories and peoples controlled by one government

**Babylon** – the capital of Babylonia; a city of great wealth and luxury

**Caravan** – a group of travelers journeying together

**Bazaar** – a market selling different kinds of goods



# The Two Empires of Mesopotamia

- After the Sumerians were defeated, Mesopotamia had two main empires: Babylonia and Assyria.
- An empire is an area of many territories and people that are controlled by one government. (Collection of Civilizations)
- The Babylonian empire lasted from c1800 BC to c1600 BC.

# Babylon and King Hammurabi

- The Babylonian people created a monarchy supported by a system of taxation to pay for running the government.
- Tax collectors traveled throughout the empire collecting tax money from citizens.
- The king of Babylon was Hammurabi. Hammurabi united the cities of Sumer and then expanded his empire.

**Ancient Near East**  
empires from 700-300 BCE

**Babylon Empire – 1787 B.C.**





# A Crossroads of Trade

- Babylon became rich due to trade. Caravans, traveled back and forth from the Sumerian cities in the south to the city of Akkad in the north. Along the way, they always stopped in Babylon to trade.
- Roads were built throughout the empire which made travel easier and encouraged trade.
- Babylon had special markets, called bazaars, that people could go to and buy cotton cloth from India. They could also buy spices from Egypt there.



# Hammurabi's Code

- Hammurabi was the king who united most of Mesopotamia and conquered the Sumerians. Hammurabi developed a written set of laws for his people to follow in 1790 BC.
- A total of 282 laws form the Hammurabi's Code. Law number 196 states: *If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.* Some people summarize Hammurabi's code by saying "an eye for an eye."



A statue of  
Hammurabi



# Hammurabi's Code

- Hammurabi's Code provided that the punishment should be similar to the crime. Under this principle, breaking another person's arm in anger is punished by having your own arm broken.
- For certain crimes people could be put to death. Many laws warned lawbreakers of what to expect.
- A person who accidentally broke the law was just as guilty as someone who meant to break the law.
- The code was carved into stone and placed in public places for all to see. The laws were meant to serve as a lasting way to keep order and prevent troubles in the future.



# Babylonia is Conquered

- Hammurabi conquered many neighboring cities, and he kept expanding his empire.
- Hammurabi would often go to war against his allies (friends) as well.
- When the city of Elam attacked Larsa, Hammurabi helped Larsa defend themselves.
- Once Elam was conquered, Hammurabi turned right around and conquered Larsa!

# Babylonia is Conquered

- Each time that Babylon would conquer another city, Hammurabi would take the city's chariots, weapons, tools, and all their riches.
- Trading helped Babylon get rich, and so did conquest.
- Though Hammurabi formed a large and rich empire, the people that ruled after him could not keep it together.
- The empire kept getting smaller and smaller until eventually it was destroyed.