

Chapter 2 – The Fertile Crescent

Section 3 – The Legacy of Mesopotamia Notes

LEGACY OF MESOPOTAMIA	
Hammurabi's Code	The Art of Writing
Hammurabi's Code was the first set of organized laws ever recorded	Writing developed in Mesopotamia (Sumer) around 3100B.C.
Code included laws about trade, labor, property and family	Sumerians developed writing to keep records
Laws were based on the Idea of "an eye for and eye"	At first, very few people could write; Scribes held positions of great respect
Laws did not apply equally to all people - punishments depended on the importance of the victim	Sales, trades, tax payments, gifts for the gods, marriages, and deaths were recorded
Accidental breaking of the law was viewed as a criminal act	Using a stylus, information was recorded on clay tablets, which became permanent records
Writing of laws ensured that everyone knew the laws and the consequences for breaking them	Cuneiform is one of the earliest forms of writing