**Hammurabi’s Code Lesson Plan - for Sept 16th and 17th**

**Day 1:**

1. Bellringer – Write paragraph stating “Why societies make laws and what purpose do they serve?”
2. Think, Pair, Share – Discuss, compare and contrast your paragraphs
3. Powerpoint – “Hammurabi’s Code of Law”
4. Pg. 32 Textbook – Turning Point Activity
   1. Read and review
   2. Why did Hammurabi carve his laws on a stone (stela) pillar?
   3. Review the document based questions
5. Place students in groups.  Each group receives **a handout with a portion of Hammurabi’s law code**.  Each group’s portion will address **a particular theme** (marriage, crime, buildings, slavery, debts/loans/economics, agriculture, etc.).  Each group will **choose 5 laws** and place them on the **“Examining the Law” Chart.**
6. Each group will be responsible for creating a poster that gives **the theme**, **rephrases the laws in their own words**, explains **why society would have demanded those laws**, and share what laws we have today that address those same themes.

**Day 2:**

1. Finish Poster.
2. Create a skit that shows one of your laws.
3. Class discussion – Each group will then **present their poster to the rest of the class**, teaching them about their portion of Hammurabi’s Code. Posters will be displayed throughout the room.  Students will then do the closing activity.

**Closing**

Reflection/creative writing paper.  Students will be given the following prompt:  Imagine you are living in ancient Mesopotamia.  Pick a persona or position in society and explain how Hammurabi’s law code pertains to your life and how it helps or hurts you.  Writing should be 2-3 paragraphs.

**Important Questions to Ask**

* What themes does Hammurabi’s Code address?
* Why would Sumerian society have demanded these laws?
* What laws do we have today that address the same issues?

**MATERIALS**

* PowerPoint presentation about Sumerian government and structure
* Poster Board and markers for each group
* Hammurabi’s Code handouts (each group needs one copy of their section for each student).  There will be different sets of handouts for each group.

**EVALUATION**  
Students will be evaluated as a group in the final product and presentation of their posters. Students will be evaluated individually in their closing writing activity.

Students’ class participation will be assessed during the class discussion on Day 3.  These assessment methods will allow the teacher to evaluate comprehension through all steps of the lesson both individually and as a group.