Hammurabi and Babylonia
I. The Fertile Crescent

A. Made up of two lands
   1. Mesopotamia
   2. Palestine (a.k.a. the Levant)

B. Mesopotamia
   1. In and around modern-day Iraq.
   2. Around the Tigris and Euphrates River.
C. Palestine/Levant

1. In and around modern-day Israel.
2. Around the Jordan River.
3. The Hebrews flourished there.
II. Babylonia

A. Took a lot of their culture from the earlier Sumerians.

B. Amorites settled the capital city of Babylon c. 2000 BCE on the Euphrates River.

C. They ruled nearly all of Mesopotamia.

D. Conquered by the Hittites c. 1600 BCE.

E. Made some important achievements.
III. Polytheism
   A. Belief in many deities.
   B. A religion which believes in many deities is polytheistic.

IV. Deity
   A. A deity is a god or a goddess

V. Ziggurat
   A. A large mud brick pyramid
   B. Used as a temple to major gods in Mesopotamia
VI. Babylonian religion

A. Borrowed much of their religion from the Sumerians

B. It was a polytheistic religion

C. Each god controlled a part of nature or human activity

D. Important gods had ziggurats

E. Each god had an idol

1. Only priests were allowed to see it in a room called the Holy of Holies.
2. They washed, fed, and clothed it daily.

F. Believed strongly in lawfulness

G. Believed gods punished evildoers with natural disasters
VII. Cuneiform

A. A type of writing developed in Mesopotamia.

B. Used wedge-shaped marks in wet clay to make symbols.

C. Symbols represented sounds, words, and ideas.

D. Cuneiform means “wedge-shaped” in Latin.
Notes

VIII. Hammurabi
A. King of Babylonia from c. 1790 BCE to c. 1750 BCE.
B. Wrote a set of laws for his people, the Code of Hammurabi.

IX. The Code of Hammurabi.
A. Carved on a black stone stele in cuneiform.
B. Hammurabi wrote that he had received a law from the sun god, Shumash.
C. Code of law covered many areas:
   1. Crime
   2. Family
   3. Trade

D. Did not cover religion.

E. Gave out “eye-for-an-eye” punishments.

F. Sought to protect the weak from the powerful in Babylonian society

G. Wealthy people had different punishments from poor people.