SS.7.C.3.10 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will use examples of historical law codes to identify how laws were created and developed in Western society.

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

The **Magna Carta** was a government document that limited the power of the king of England and protected the rights of the nobility. It was written by a group of English nobles in 1215. As a colony of England, the colonists thought they were due the same rights as the Englishmen. The Magna Carta was one reason why the colonists pursued their freedom from England. Some of the rights were written into the laws of the states and later into the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. One example is the Fifth Amendment’s **due process** clause.

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

**due process** - the idea that people have the right to fair and reasonable laws, and that government leaders and officials have to follow rules when enforcing laws and treat all people in the same way

**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