

Activity 2: Hammurabi's Code as an Object: Stele, Stele, Stele

Student Name _____ Date _____

After viewing the [Large Image of Hammurabi's Stela](#), available through the EDSITEment-reviewed web resource [The Oriental Institute: The University of Chicago](#), answer the following questions.

1. Describe the stele, being sure to include the shape, carvings, figures, and any additional distinctive features.

2. What is the relative size of the two figures?

3. Why make one figure significantly larger than the other?

4. Describe the posture of the smaller figure. Which figure appears to be more important?

5. What could be the purpose of the wavy lines coming from the shoulders of the seated figure?

6. The larger figure is handing something to the smaller figure. What could that mean?

7. What could one hypothesize might be happening in the scene?

8. The markings under the graphic have been translated. What do students hypothesize the writing might say?

9. Assume that King Hammurabi composed the inscription on the stela after hearing the students' recommendations as his advisors in Activity #1. What might the inscription say?
