

Name:

The Classroom Law Code

In A.D. 528 the Emperor Justinian began a review of the old Roman laws. There were thousands of Roman laws that ordered life in the empire. The emperor chose ten men to review 1,600 books full of Roman Law and create a simpler legal code. These men were able to create the Justinian Code with just over 4,000 laws.

Read these two laws from the Justinian Code. Think about what they tell you about the Roman and Byzantine empires. Answer the questions that follow the samples.

Primary Source Tip _Reading these samples or any legal document may be hard for you to understand. There are some big words, and the paragraphs are often one long sentence. Read each part of the sentence carefully. If you find words you do not know, look them up in a dictionary.

Book I, Of Persons

VIII. Slaves _1. Slaves are in the power of masters, a power derived from the law of nations: for among all nations it may be remarked that masters have the power of life and death over their slaves, and that everything acquired by the slave is acquired for the master.

Book II, Of Things

I. Division of Things _28. If the wheat of Titius is mixed with yours, when this takes place by mutual consent, the mixed heap belongs to you in common because each body, that is, each grain, which before was the property of one or other of you, has by your mutual consent been made your common property; but, if the intermixture were accidental, or made by Titius without your consent, the mixed wheat does not then belong to you both in common; because the grains still remain distinct, and retain their proper substance. ...if either of you keep the whole quantity of mixed wheat, the other has a real actio [claim or suit] for the amount of wheat belonging to him, but it is in the province of the judge to estimate the quality of the wheat belonging to each.

1. The Justinian Code has four different parts called books. What books do you see here?
2. What does the first sample tell you about slavery in both empires? How do you think slaves were treated?
3. Review Law Number 28. Under this law, what happens if someone takes your property without your permission? How do you think this law helped the government maintain order?
4. Why do you think it was important for the Roman and Byzantine empires to have extensive legal codes?

Group Members: _____

Minnesota State Statutes

- 1) What was your statute or law?
- 2) What is the number of your statute?
- 3) What is your law about?
- 4) Give 5 aspects of your law
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
- 5) Why do you think laws are so in-depth and have to be worded so difficult?
- 6) Create a new law for this classroom and try to put it in formal format.

2011 Minnesota Statutes

624.20 FIREWORKS.

Subdivision 1. **Regulation.** (a) As used in sections 624.20 to 624.25, the term "fireworks" means any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, and includes blank cartridges, toy cannons, and toy canes in which explosives are used, the type of balloons which require fire underneath to propel them, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, Roman candles, daygo bombs, sparklers other than those specified in paragraph (c), or other fireworks of like construction, and any fireworks containing any explosive or inflammable compound, or any tablets or other device containing any explosive substance and commonly used as fireworks.

(b) The term "fireworks" shall not include toy pistols, toy guns, in which paper caps containing 25/100 grains or less of explosive compound are used and toy pistol caps which contain less than 20/100 grains of explosive mixture.

(c) The term also does not include wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item, other sparkling items which are nonexplosive and nonaerial and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 500 grams or less for multiple tubes, snakes and glow worms, smoke devices, or trick noisemakers which include paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops, each consisting of not more than twenty-five hundredths grains of explosive mixture. The use of items listed in this paragraph is not permitted on public property. This paragraph does not authorize the purchase of items listed in it by persons younger than 18 years of age. The age of a purchaser of items listed in this paragraph must be verified by photographic identification.

(d) A local unit of government may impose an annual license fee for the retail sale of items authorized under paragraph (c). The annual license fee of each retail seller that is in the business of selling only the items authorized under paragraph (c) may not exceed \$350, and the annual license of each other retail seller may not exceed \$100. A local unit of government may not:

(1) impose any fee or charge, other than the fee authorized by this paragraph, on the retail sale of items authorized under paragraph (c);

(2) prohibit or restrict the display of items for permanent or temporary retail sale authorized under paragraph (c) that comply with National Fire Protection Association Standard 1124 (2003 edition); or

(3) impose on a retail seller any financial guarantee requirements, including bonding or insurance provisions, containing restrictions or conditions not imposed on the same basis on all other business licensees.

Subd. 2. **Explosive fireworks.** As used in sections 624.20 to 624.25, the term "explosive fireworks" means any fireworks that contain pyrotechnic or flash powder, gunpowder, black powder, or any other explosive compound constructed to produce detonation or deflagration.