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?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________