



Which era of history had the fairest justice system?



Pupils will learn

- To devise their own questions about the similarities and differences in crime and punishment between different eras.
- To give their own reasons for changes to crime and punishment between eras.
- To understand the legacy of some of the important changes in crime and punishment.
- To be able to recognise trends in crime and punishment over time.
- To evaluate the different punishments used throughout time.
- To critically think about the fairness in the justice systems of different eras.
- To order the time periods they have previously studied.

Important facts

- Links to prior learning:
 - Year 1 - Castles and their purpose
 - Year 2 - Great Fire of London
 - Year 3 - Romans
 - Year 4 - Anglo-Saxons
 - Year 5 - Vikings
- **Romans**
 - Roman laws were written around 450 BC and called the 'Twelve Tables'.
 - Punishments were severe to deter people from not following them.
 - People could pay to have their punishment lessened.
 - Judges and juries were used to decide if someone was guilty or not guilty.
 - The worst crime, treason, was punishable by being thrown to the lions.
- **Anglo-Saxons**
 - People accused of a crime had a trial. If a decision as to whether the person was guilty or not guilty could not be made, a trial by ordeal would take place.
 - There were no prisons to send criminals to so punishments acted as huge deterrents and were often very brutal including stoning, whipping and hanging.
- **Tudors**
 - To deter people from committing crimes they came up with even more terrifying punishments, including public executions.
 - Public humiliations were common.
- **Victorians**
 - They looked for alternative ways to hanging people for committing crimes.
 - Many prisons were built in order to prevent people committing further crimes.
 - Idea of a Police force was introduced.

Local Links

- Norwich Castle - Visit the dungeons and explore Norwich's Castle history as a prison.
- Norwich Magistrates Court - Visit the building to see what a court looks like.
- Norfolk Police Station

Home Learning Ideas

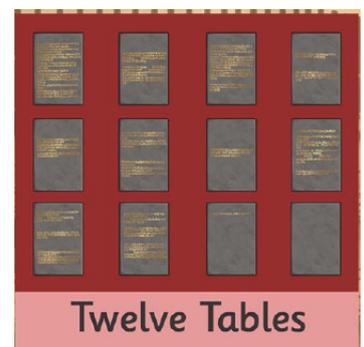
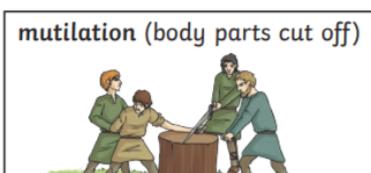
- Family fingerprint analysis
- Make your own timeline of your favourite events
- Write a story of a crime and how it was punished set in one of the eras.
- Create your own detective game

Books to read at home

- The Highway Rat
- Horrible Histories - Crime and Punishment
- Holes
- The Secret Diary of Klitty Cask
- Banished, Beheaded or Boiled in Oil

Inquiry Questions

- What do we mean by crime and punishment and what have been some of its main features over time?
- What have been some of the main changes over time to the types of crime committed? Why?
- Over time, have people been punished more fairly for crimes?
- Have crimes been fairly investigated over time?
- Do stories about crime and punishment in the past present a fair picture of the time period?
- Over time, which main types of crime have been the most worrying?



Further Information

Changes in Crime

Anglo-Saxon crimes are centered on keeping the community safe and showing proper respect to the authority of Church and king.



Norman laws make life for the English highly restrictive, with things that were not previously crimes becoming so in order for the Normans to keep control over their conquered country.

Late Medieval England sees repeals of Norman laws with new crimes being created, most notably heresy.

c1000

Most serious crimes are those against authority such as plotting against the king.

1066

William I conquers England. Murdrum law created.

1079

Forest Laws created.

1348

Statute of Labourers created.

1348

First laws against heresy introduced.

Changes in Punishment

Anglo-Saxon punishments include capital punishment, mutilation, fines and public humiliation.



Norman punishments continue much as they had in Anglo-Saxon England.

Late Medieval punishments continue similarly to earlier periods, with some exceptions.

c1000

Wergild is a fine paid by a murderer to the victim's family.

1066

Wergild replaced with fines directly to the king.

1079

Poaching from the king's forests is punishable by death.

1352

Being hung, drawn and quartered is made the official punishment for treason.

The Romans

The Vikings

The Plantagenets

The Stuarts

The Victorians

43

450

793

1066

1154

1485

1603

1704

1837

The Anglo-Saxons

The Normans

The Tudors

The Georgians

Key Vocabulary

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| trial | A judge and jury listen to evidence in a court to decide whether a person is guilty of a crime. | deterrent | To discourage someone from doing something. |
| execution | A sentence of death. | highwaymen | Criminals who would rob people while they were travelling. This was very common during the Stuart and Georgian periods |
| humiliation | To make someone feel ashamed and foolish. | judge | Someone who is in charge of a trial in court. |
| jury | A group of people who would listen to the facts in a trial and decide if the person is guilty or not guilty. | ordeal | A long and painful experience |
| treason | A crime against the King, Queen or the government. | victim | A person who has suffered. |
| Ignorance | To have a lack of knowledge of information | Reluctance | To be unwilling to do or say something |

* Words in grey are Tier 2 (non-topic specific) vocabulary