

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Key Vocabulary:

- Jury** A group of people who listen to all the evidence and decide if someone is guilty.
- Judge** A person who is in charge of a serious trial and decides what punishment a criminal gets.
- Trial** A meeting where all the evidence about whether someone is guilty of a crime is read out and a decision is made.
- Lawyer** A person who tries to persuade the jury that a person did or didn't commit a crime.
- Magistrate** A person who is in charge of a trial that's not as serious
- Transportation** A punishment that meant being sent to live in America or Australia and work really hard.
- Treason** Crimes against the country or the King
- Pillory** A punishment that meant being put in stocks so people could throw things at you.

Who were the Tolpuddle Martyrs?

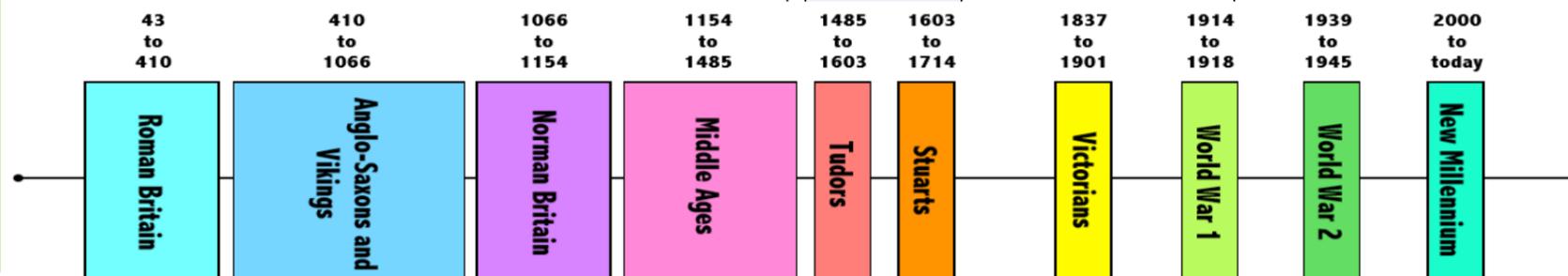
In 1830, farm labourers earned 9 shillings a week. This was reduced to 8 then 7 shillings. New farm machinery meant that people were being replaced by machines. In 1834, six farm workers from Tolpuddle were convicted of swearing an illegal oath and sentenced to 7 years transportation. The men were sentenced at the Dorchester courthouse (now the Shire Hall Museum). The men endured terrible conditions and experiences in Australia and Tasmania. They worked in chain gangs and on farms and were treated like slaves. News spread about their harsh treatment and the injustice of it. 800,000 people signed a petition for their freedom and raised money to support their families. On 14th March 1836, the men were given a full pardon but it took years for them to return home.



Crime in the 20th and 21st centuries

With developments in society and technology, there have been lots of new crimes in the last century, as well as crimes that have been present at other times: Car theft and vandalism; Football hooliganism; Computer hacking; Evading tax; Drug dealing; Anti-social behavior; Shoplifting. Harsh punishments, including time in prison, have been shown not to work very well so there are now other types of punishment available, such as ASBOs (anti-social behaviour orders), community service, probation and electronic tagging.

Some elements of crime and punishment today haven't changed much from other ages: There are still judges and juries deciding whether someone is innocent or guilty. Fines are often paid when someone has committed a crime. Execution was only abolished in 1965. The police force is still here and has expanded a lot.



In the 1600s, the rich carried their wealth around with them as there were no banks. This, along with the increase of horses, led to many people becoming Highwaymen. They would stop carriages and demand that people would hand over their wealth



Crime and Punishment throughout the Ages		
Period of History		Crimes and how they were punished
Romans		If you were caught stealing from a temple, you were sentenced to death. If you sold underweight bread, you were whipped. If you killed your father you were tied in a sack of snakes and thrown into the river. The worst punishment in Roman law was crucifixion. Just like today, the defendant was innocent until proven guilty and they were allowed to present evidence in their defence.
Anglo Saxons and Vikings		The standard rate of weregild for killing a man was 200 shillings. This was multiplied if a nobleman was killed, generally 1200 shillings were paid to his family. One trial by ordeal that was often used was to walk over hot coals or ploughshares. Another popular trial was trial by boiling water. Instead of punishment, most crimes demanded that the criminal pay the injured party compensation, known as weregild. 'Gild' meant gold.
Norman		Instead of weregild, people would have their ears slit or their hands cut off, executed or fined for their crimes. However, instead of the money going back to the victim or the victim's family, it would go to the king. The Anglo-Saxon community-based system of crime prevention, such as the use of tithings, continued for some time after the Norman conquest but changes were gradually introduced. Harsher punishments were more common and weregild (paying compensation for your crime) was more or less abolished.
Medieval		The lord of the manor would be a judge at regular courts and many trials would have juries too. Criminals who had offended the public were either put in the stocks if you were a man or on the ducking stool if you were a woman. This was called a 'shaming punishment'. Throughout the middle ages, the Church had its own courts. These tried crimes of a religious nature, such as blaspheming or failure to attend church.
Tudor		During the Tudor times, all of the monasteries were closed down. The Catholic monasteries were often used to help look after the poor. Once these were closed, there was no one else to look after them. The poor had to turn to crimes such as theft in order to feed themselves. Anyone who disagreed with the changes in the Church were charged with heresy and were burned at the stake. There were also lots of rebellions and many people were executed for treason.
Stuarts		In 1605, thirteen men plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament when the new king, James I, arrived to open parliament. The plotters were Catholic and James I was Protestant so they didn't want him on the throne. Guy Fawkes was caught redhanded with the gunpowder and he was tortured. There followed an investigation, interrogations and trials. Eleven of the thirteen men were hanged, drawn and quartered for treason.
Victorian		Industrialisation meant that more people were living in towns and cities which became busy and crowded. Theft was still the most common crime. Pickpockets and petty thieves were everywhere in towns and cities. One of the biggest changes in this period was the introduction of the police force. There were still constables and nightwatchmen. There were also the Bow Street Runners which were a group that had been set up in 1749. They were attached to a magistrates court and investigated crimes brought for trial there.