

Y5 Autumn History: How has crime and punishment changed over time?

Romans' Rule

Roman laws, written around 450 BC, were called the 'Twelve Tables'. Not following these rules was a crime. 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. There were lots of serious crimes such as murder, and less serious crimes, such as stealing. The worst crime, **treason**, was punishable by being thrown to the lions.



Anglo-Saxon Justice System

Anglo-Saxon 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. It is thought that God would decide if they were guilty or not by the outcome of the **ordeal**. There were no prisons to send criminals to so punishments acted as huge **deterrents** and were often very brutal including stoning, whipping and hanging.

mutilation (body parts cut off)



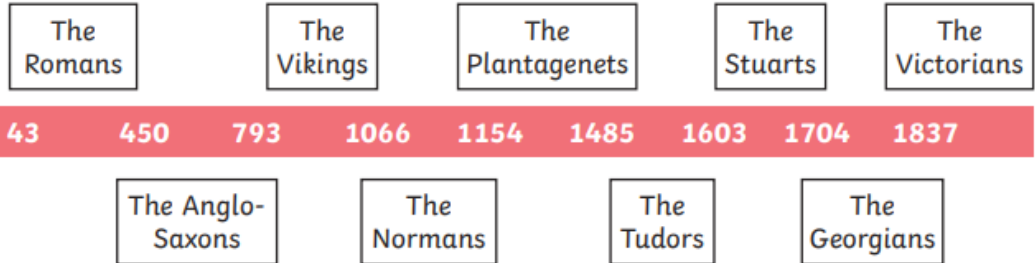
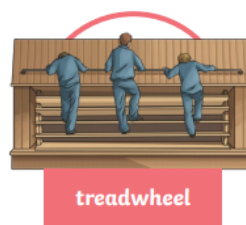
exile (being sent away)



Victorians Villains

The Victorians looked for alternative ways to hanging people for committing crimes. Many prisons were built in order to prevent people committing further crimes. Life in prison was very tough. Prisoners had to do very physically demanding tasks. These included:

- the treadwheel - using the steps on a huge wooden and iron wheel to move it
- shot drill - lifting a heavy iron cannonball
- the crank - machinery that victims turned 10,000 times a day



Tudor Torture

To **deter** people from committing crimes, the Tudors came up with even more terrifying punishments, including public **executions**. Public **humiliations** were common. The scold's bridle was worn for gossiping; the rack used to stretch out the **victim's** body for **treason**; and the dunking stool to find out if someone was a witch.

Key Vocabulary

bobbies/ peelers	Police officers, named after Sir Robert Peel, who introduced the first police force in London in 1829.
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.
trial	A judge and jury listen to evidence in a court to decide whether a person is guilty of a crime.