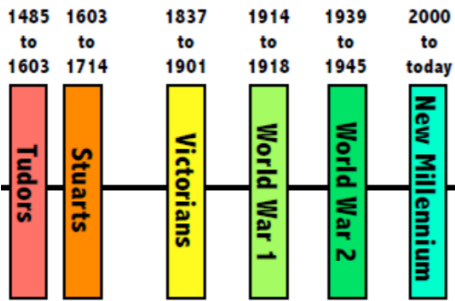


Year 6: Crime and Punishment



How were criminals punished 800 years ago?

- Instead of punishment, criminals had to pay the injured party compensation known as **Weregild**.
- No police – villages were divided into 10 households called tithings who made sure that wrongdoers were brought to justice.
- Criminals could be outlawed
- Most serious crimes earned the death penalty
- Medieval England did not have a police force so catching criminals was difficult.
- People who broke the law were known as **outlaws**. The most famous outlaw was **Robin Hood**.

Why did punishments become so bloody during the 18th century?

MPs believed that punishments should be as harsh as possible to deter people from committing the crime

- Many women were accused of witchcraft and burned at the stake
- Smugglers became more common as did Poachers. – Highwaymen attacking coaches
- Punishments were very harsh. In 1688 only 50 crimes earned the death penalty, by 1800 it was 200! This system of law became known as the '**Bloody Code**'.
- The Bloody code included stealing sheep, poaching fish and cutting down a growing tree
- Transportation to America was introduced

How did crime and punishment change between 1500 and 1750?

- Community-based crime prevention system – Weregild was abolished.
- 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.
- trial by jury. Churches had their own courts
- first time law enforcement was a role of someone rather than the job of the whole community.



scold's bridle



branding



the rack

Key Vocabulary

deterrent	To discourage someone from doing something.
execution	A sentence of death
exile	Being sent away
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.
mutilation	Body parts being cut off
outlaw	Somebody who broke the law during Medieval times.
treason	A crime against the King, Queen or the government.
trial	A judge and jury listen to evidence in a court to decide whether a person is guilty of a crime.

Why did so much change happen in the 19th Century?

During the Victorian period, the first police force was set up in Britain. Public hangings were stopped in 1868 and the prison system became organised and professional.

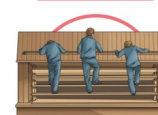
- Theft was still the most common crime
- Smuggling died out and highwaymen were less common
- More political crimes such as striking and rioting
- Introduction of the police force by Sir Robert Peel
- Public hangings continued until 1868
- Transportation to Australia
- Prisons were developed as an answer to the end of transportation.

Has the way we catch and punish criminals improved?

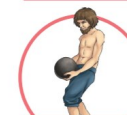
In the new millennium, there are new crimes such as car theft, online hacking and anti-social behaviour.



the crank



treadwheel



shot drill