

What should I already know?

- Chronology of British history.
- Romans
- Anglo-Saxons

Historical skills and enquiry

Enquiry – how fairly were they treated?

- Henry Catlin (pickpocket)
- Mary Read (pirate)
- Pendle witch trials
- Dick Turpin (highwayman)

Debate – is the death penalty a suitable form of punishment?

Hold a trial from one of the periods in history.



Dick Turpin



Mary Read



Henry Catlin

What will I find out by the end of the unit?

Romans

- Crucifixion was used for foreigners, pirates, slaves and those who committed treason.
- The defendant was always innocent until proven guilty and had the right to defend themselves.
- Curse tablets: people made curse tablets with the name of the criminal and how they wanted them to be punished written on them and they took them to the temple for the gods in the hope they would punish them.

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

- Witnesses were used in court to help decide if a person was guilty or innocent.
- If no witnesses there was a trial by ordeal: trial by fire – walking on hot ploughstones. Trial by water – plunging hand into boiling water to retrieve a stone. If the criminal was unharmed they were innocent as God had performed a miracle.

- Weregild – compensation paid to the victim.

Normans, Tudors and Stuarts

- Punishment by humiliation was used e.g. putting people in the stocks so people could throw rotten vegetables at them.
- A kind of police force was created called constables or watchmen. Justices of the Peace (JPs) were appointed by the king to give out punishments.
- There were also many rebellions (Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot) punished by execution for treason.

Early modern

- Highwaymen – rich people carried money with them as there were no banks so travelling people were often held up at gunpoint.
- Poaching – forests created in Tudor times were taken over by the rich. People would go back into these forests to hunt for food and were punished as poachers.
- Smugglers – government raised taxes on people bringing goods into the country so people smuggled goods into the country rather than pay hefty taxes.

Victorian

- In busy towns where there were overcrowded streets, pickpockets took the opportunity to steal money and small goods from people's pockets or bags. Many of these pickpockets were children.
- In 1829, a politician called Sir Robert Peel introduced the first English police force in London which was then introduced throughout the country. These policemen were called 'bobbies' or 'peelers'.
- The penalty for the most serious crimes would be death by hanging. This became a less popular form of punishment, especially for smaller crimes, and more people were transported abroad (sometimes all the way to Australia!) or sent to prison instead.

Vocabulary

trial	a formal examination of evidence by a judge in order to decide guilt
reparations	making amends for a wrong one has done, by providing payment or assistance to those who have been wronged
execution	death as punishment
treason	attempting to kill or overthrow the king/queen or government
heresy	belief or opinion against the accepted religious belief
pillory	punishment by being put in stocks
transportation	sending criminals abroad as punishment
reformatory schools	prison for young offenders



British convicts

transported to Australia



Sir Robert Peel

