

## History Subject Knowledge Bank

### Year 5: Crime and Punishment (including Dick Turpin)

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<b>Treason</b>	Betraying someone or something
<b>Transportation</b>	Transporting convicts to a prison overseas
<b>Execution</b>	The carrying out a sentence of death
<b>Trial</b>	An examination of evidence to decide guilt
<b>Peasantry</b>	Low status people who worked on farms
<b>Resistance</b>	The refusal to accept or comply with something
<b>Legacy</b>	Long lasting impact of events
<b>Aristocracy</b>	People of noble birth
<b>Perspective</b>	A particular point of view.

#### **What was crime & punishment like in Tudor times (1485-1603)?**

- There was no police force in Tudor times, preventing crime was left up to the people.
- Some towns employed Parish Constables who would be responsible for keeping the peace and catching criminals.
- The laws were strict and most crimes were punished severely. Whipping and being branded with a hot iron were common punishments. Criminals were locked in stocks. Stocks were placed in the centre of the village so everyone could see the punishment.
- Executions, such as beheading, being hung, drawn and quartered or being burnt at the stake were punishments for people guilty of treason or heresy. Executions were public events that people would come to watch.
- Guy Fawkes was born in York (1570 – 1606) and his life and death gives us evidence of crime and punishment during this time.

#### **What was crime & punishment like in Ancient Rome (43 BC-410AD)?**

- The Roman Empire had many slaves, as well as citizens who were free men and women. They were often treated differently if they broke the law. The system of law and punishment is the basis of many laws that we still use today.
- There was no police force but they did have a group called the Vigiles or they would call in Roman guards to help.
- They designed their punishments to discourage potential criminals. Whipping and fines were the most common punishments.
- For very serious crimes you could be killed by crucifixion, thrown from a cliff, into a river or even buried alive. Over time, Roman punishments became more and more violent.

#### **What was crime and punishment like in Anglo Saxon times (410 AD- 1066)**

- There was no police force- law and order was the responsibility of everyone in the village.
- Tithing- a group of ten men responsible for each other's behaviour. If one of them broke the law, the other members had to bring them to court. The leader of the village used laws written by the King to decide on punishments.
- They did not have prisons. Most people found guilty were punished with fines. Crimes such as treason or betraying your lord carried the death penalty. Regular offenders were punished very harshly. If they were found guilty more than once they might have their hands cut off.
- Trial by ordeal- the accused would be made to perform a task that caused injury. If their wounds healed cleanly after 3 days then they would be considered to be innocent in the eyes of God.



#### **What was crime and punishment like in Victorian times (1837-1901)?**

- Children received the same punishment as an adult. 1829
- Sir Robert Peel introduced the first English police force to improve public order in London.
- Over the next ten years, many other areas of the country formed their own police force. They carried truncheons and rattles to raise the alarm.
- Prisons became the main form of punishment.
- Transportation- criminals sent to Australia for hard labour.
- Victorians believed that having to work very hard would prevent criminals committing crime in the future. The crank and the treadmill- prisoners made to do pointless tasks such as turn a crank up to 10,000 times a day or walk for hours on giant circular treadmills.
- In 1854 youth prisons were introduced to deal with child offenders. These were called Reformatory Schools. Other forms of punishment included fines, hanging or being sent to join the army.

#### **Who was Dick Turpin (1705-1739)?**

- Dick Turpin began stealing when he joined a gang in Essex. He was a thief who committed horrible crimes.
- Together with Tom King he became a highwayman robbing stagecoaches during the night. Turpin killed his friend Tom King by accident in a robbery that went wrong. He also murdered a servant called Tom Morris.
- There was a huge reward for the capture of Dick Turpin and so he fled to Yorkshire where he changed his name to John Palmer.
- Turpin was arrested for shooting a chicken and threatening to kill his landlord.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1737 Palmer was identified as the highwayman Dick Turpin at York Prison by his former teacher James Smith. Smith recognised Turpin's handwriting on a letter sent from his cell to his brother- in-law.
- Dick Turpin was executed on 7th April 1739 and his body was buried in York.

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