

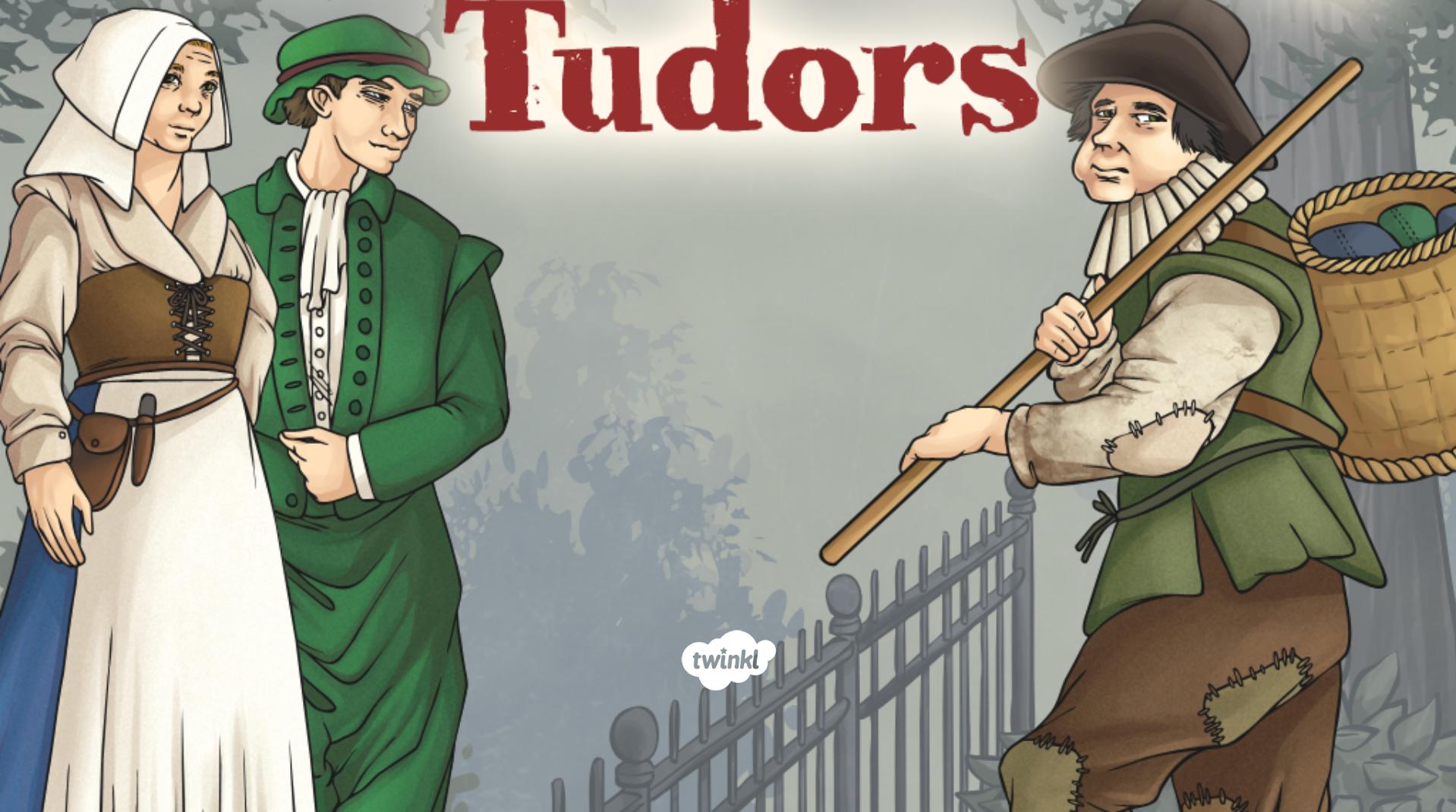


# History

## Crime and Punishment



# The Torturing Tudors



# Aim

- I can find out about different punishment methods that were popular during the Tudor period.

# Success Criteria

- I can ask questions about various historical sources of Tudor objects.
- I can tell you some key facts about different types of punishments used in Tudor Britain.
- I can explain which crimes were thought to be very serious in Tudor Britain.
- I can compare and contrast the Tudor and Anglo-Saxon justice systems.

# Watch the video

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8w3n9q/articles/z26w4xs>

# Anglo-Saxon to Tudor Timeline



End of the Anglo-Saxon period in Britain.

The Norman period.

The Plantagenet period.

The start of the Tudor period.

The end of the Tudor period.

**AD 1066**

December 1066: William of Normandy crowned king after the Battle of Hastings.

**AD 1154**

December 1154: Henry II, the first 'Plantagenet' king, takes the crown.

**AD 1485**

August 1485: Richard III is defeated by Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth.

**AD 1603**

Around 100 years

Around 330 years

Around 120 years

## What can you remember about Anglo-Saxon crime and punishment?

1. How did they punish people who stole something?
2. How did they decide whether someone was guilty if there were not enough oath-keepers?
3. Would you have wanted to live during Anglo-Saxon times?

We will now skip forward by over 400 years – through the **Norman** and the **Plantagenet** periods – to the Tudor period!

1. What do you think will have changed in Britain by the time of the Tudor period?
2. Will punishments have become any fairer? Or do you think they will be worse? Why?

# Tudor Crime and Punishment

In Tudor times, there were still no police. Crime – mainly stealing – was widespread, as many poor people could not afford to pay for increasingly expensive food. However, punishments were harsh, in the belief that it would stop others from committing the same crime. New punishments were created to be even more terrifying than before.



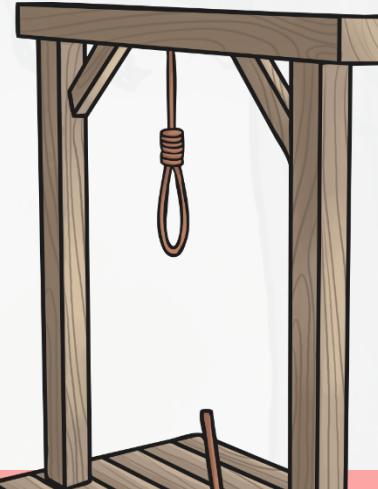
Because most people did not travel far in Tudor England, anyone who did was often treated with suspicion. Travelling actors had to have a license, otherwise they were breaking the law.

Tudor London experienced some of the worst crime. It attracted many vagrants (people without a home) and people looking for work. The Tudor rich and Tudor poor lived apart, and a poor person in a wealthy area was often thought to be a criminal.

# Tudor Crime and Punishment

Public executions were extremely popular and people would wait for hours to watch them, often taking their children with them!

Some historians have estimated that about 70,000 people were executed during the reign of Henry VIII.



Vagrancy (being homeless) was a crime and punished by being whipped, or even hanged. Many people were afraid that all vagrants were criminals and murderers.

Stealing was considered a serious Tudor crime, and people could be punished for just stealing a bird's egg. Stealing even a small amount of money could mean the death penalty.





# Guess the Tudor Object!

Look at the picture of  
**Source 1** on your Activity  
Sheet.

- What questions do you have about this?
- What do you think it was used for?



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# Guess the Tudor Object!



Look at the picture of **Source 2** on your Activity Sheet.

- What questions do you have about this?
- What do you think a person would have done to be given this punishment?



# Guess the Tudor Object!



Look at the picture of **Source 3** on your Activity Sheet.

- What is this for?
- What do you think a person would have done to be given this punishment?



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# Guess the Tudor Object!

Look at the picture of **Source 4** on your Activity Sheet.

- What do you think this object was used for?
- What do you think a person would have done to be given this punishment?



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# Guess the Tudor Object!



Look at the picture of **Source 5** on your Activity Sheet.

- What do you think these objects were used for?
- Do you recognise the object what the lady has on her head from another picture you have?



# Tudor Crimes: Vagrancy



This is a woodcut from around 1536 depicting a vagrant being punished in the streets in Tudor England.

1. What can you see happening in this picture?
2. Why do you think the rich Tudor people wanted to punish people who were begging?



# Tudor Crimes: Treason

The Tudor monarchs were very worried about people trying to take the crown from them. The act of attempting to otherthrow or kill the king or government in charge is called treason.



The Star Chamber (a type of court) was set up to hear cases of treason. It became feared, as being on trial here meant no jury, witnesses or possibility of appealing.

The punishment for treason would be death, usually by a very gruesome method to scare anyone else from thinking about it!

## Fascinating Fact!

By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, punishment for treason became very rare, but the official punishment for treason remained death until 1998!





# Tudor People and Their Punishments

## Activity

Read through the information about each person. Can you match them with their crime, the punishment and the picture of it?

### Tudor People and Their Punishments

Flagging	The Ducking Stool	The Stocks
The Scold's Bridle (The Brank)	The Drunkard's Cloak	The Pillory
Limbs Cut Off	Branding (with an M for murder)	The Rack

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### Tudor People and Their Punishments

Cut out the cards. Match the person and their situation (green) with their crime (yellow), their punishment (orange) and its picture (blue). Can you complete the table when you have matched them all?

John Brown	Emily Parker	Robert Ford
I was my birthday so I went to the inn and stayed there for the day. On the way home I felt very merry and sang lots of songs, quite loudly.	I like to know what is happening in the village. I don't like Agnes, she has a black cat and I'm sure I can hear her singing spells at night.	I don't think much of Henry as King. He has just got rid of the new king in his place. I have been mistaking some other men in secret for thinking the same things, but I will never tell anyone their names!
Maud Parr	Peter Flint	George Shakes
I keep to myself and don't have many friends. I just have my cat for company. Some people think that I am strange. Lately people have said that I have been very sick, but I haven't.	One evening I found myself in the master's garden. The trees were full of apples. I was so hungry, I had to take some to eat.	One of my regular customers told me that he had been sick after eating some potatoes. Maybe they were rotten, but I didn't realize.
Will Shandlake	Richard Flack	Edward Dean
I have tried for months to find a job in London, but there is nothing. I have no choice but to beg for food and money on the street.	I had an argument with George. He called me a 'shimp biting-wagtail'. I was most angry, so I punched him on the nose and made it bleed.	On the way home, someone jumped out of the bushes to attack me. He tried to steal my purse of money from me. In the fight, I kicked him by accident.
Witchcraft	Begging	Selling rotten food
Fighting in the street	Treason	Gossiping
Stealing	Being drunk in public	Committing murder

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### Tudor People and Their Punishments

Person	Crime	Punishment
John Brown		
Emily Parker		
Robert Ford		
Maud Parr		
Peter Flint		
George Shakes		
Will Shandlake		
Richard Flack		
Edward Dean		

Choose one of these Tudor people. What do you think they would say about their punishment? Is it fair? How could they try to stop their punishment from happening to them?

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I think that my punishment of \_\_\_\_\_

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# Comparing the Tudor Justice System

## Questions

1. Why was torture such a big part of the justice system in the Tudor period?
2. What did the Tudors (mainly the rich and wealthy people) see as the most worrying crimes?
3. Are there some punishments the Tudors use that haven't changed since the Anglo-Saxon period?
4. Is the Tudor justice system fair? Can you explain why you think this?



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