Mexborough St John the Baptist C of E Primary School - History

Topic: Crime and Punishment Year: 6 Strand: A Thematic Study



What should I already know?

Identify where Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Tudors and Victorians come in the timeline of British history

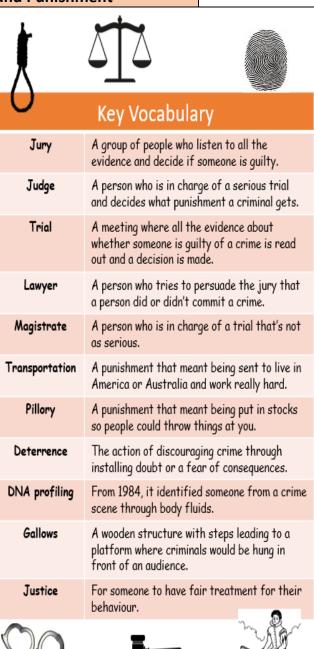
Identify some key British monarchs

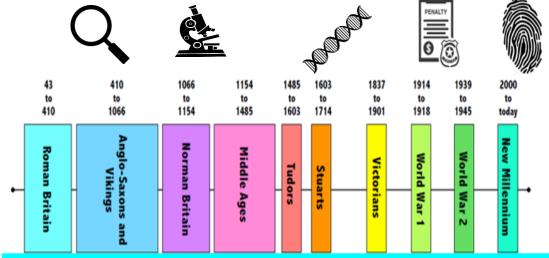
Know there is a connection between religion and social reform

Know that aspects of life can change over time

Legacy

Criminals are no longer punished as an act of revenge and no more torturous punishments, designed to humiliate and inflict pain. The focus is more on responding to crime with rehabilitation and reform.





Romans – Society was made up of the very rich but also very poor slaves. This resulted in conflict and therefore crime. As slavery was legal, running away from an owner was considered a crime. Sellers would lie to customers and give them less (fraud) and large crowds would gather to spectate often resulting in riots. Major crimes would be punished by crucifixion, sent to fight in arenas or having molten lead poured down your throats.

Anglo Saxons – Britain was not ruled by one person and the Anglo-Saxons were not united. They invaded as many different tribes and each took over different parts of Britain. The Anglo-Saxons didn't have prisons. People found guilty or crimes were either executed or punished with fines. If they ran away, they became 'outlaws' and anyone could hunt them down – unless they hid in a church. The fine for breaking into someone's home was five shillings (25p), paid to the home-owner. For minor crimes like stealing, a nose or a hand might be cut off.

Tudors – Large gaps between rich and poor meant crime was very common. Public executions were huge events with families, food stalls and people queuing for hours to get a good spot. These included beheadings, hangings, burning, pressings and boiling alive. Begging without a license would mean you would be whipped out of the town and theft resulted in having a limb chopped off.

Victorians – Anyone accused of a crime would be put in a 'lock-up' until they could see a magistrate who would decide whether they could be released or if they needed to be sentenced by a judge. Court rooms were created where victim and the accused could defend themselves and the death penalty became less common with a limited number of hangings. A police force was introduced in 1829. Public executions ended in 1868 and jails were built to try to prevent people re-offending, although many were sent out to the Empire to serve sentences abroad.

New Millennium / Modern Times – Crime ranges from physical (theft, assault, drink and drugs etc) to digital crime (fraud). Prisons now work hard to help rehabilitate people so that they do not re-offend and technological advances have meant catching criminals can be used by identifying finger prints and DNA.