

Year 6

River View Primary School

Spring 1: Crime and punishment

Key Question: How crime and punishment changed and developed throughout the ages?

Timeline						
43-410	480-1066	1066-1485	1485-1603	1603-1837	1837-1901	1901-NOW
Roman Britain	Anglo-	Middle	Tudor era	Stuart &	Victorians	Modern Era
	Saxon era	Ages		Georgian era		

Vocabulary				
Criminal law	when a person breaks the law			
Civil law	disputes settled between			
	individuals/groups			
Crime	breaking the law of the country			
Sin	breaking a religious or moral law			
Vindication	to show that the law is upheld			
Reformation	to change a person's ways			
Young offenders	once a child has reached the age of 10			
	they are regarded as old enough to			
	understand right from wrong and can be			
	charged with breaking the law			
Deterrence/	discouraging crime through instilling			
Prevention	doubt or a fear of consequences			
Gallows	a wooden structure with steps leading to			
	a platform where criminals could be hung			
DNA profile	from 1984, DNA identified someone from			
	a crime scene through body fluids (skin,			
	saliva, sweat)			
Stocks	the placing of boards around the ankles			
	and wrists as a form of torture or			
	humiliation			

Key Dates

1200 - Trail by Ordeal ended

1833 - Illegal for children under 9 to work in cotton mills

1870 - crime not to send your child to school

1829 - Sir Robert Peel passed the Metropolitan Police Act and set up the first police force in London

1839 - Provincial Police Act passed so that police forces could be set up all around the country 1854 Reformatory Schools were set up **1899** - illegal for a child to be sent to an adult prison

1965 Death Penalty abolished





Knowledge

Romans

Society was made up of the very rich but also of very poor slaves. This resulted in conflict and therefore crime. As slavery was legal, running away from an owner was considered a crime. Roman laws were called 'The Twelve Tables'. Major crimes would be punished by crucifixion, being sent to fight in arenas or having molten lead poured down your throat!

Anglo-Saxons

Anglo-Saxon Britain was not ruled by one person and was not united. The Anglo-Saxons didn't have prisons. People found guilty of crimes were either executed or punished with fines. If they ran away, they became 'outlaws' (outside the law) and anyone could hunt them down – unless they hid in a church.

Tudors

Increasing populations, dissolution of the monasteries and 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! The idea was that severe punishments would put others off from committing crimes.

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. 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 gaols (jails) were built to try to prevent people reoffending, although many were sent out to the Empire to server sentences abroad.

Modern Times

Modern society is seen as wealthier than in previous eras where more people are employed or can afford to live comfortably. There are still large gaps between the rich and poor in society and crime now ranges from physical (theft, assault, drink, drugs, etc.) to digital crime (identity fraud, etc.). Although the last public hanging took place in 1868, the last actual hanging was as late as August 13th 1964. Prisons now work hard to help rehabilitate people so that they do not re-offend and technological advances have meant catching criminals can be done by identifying fingerprints or even DNA.