

Scott Primary School—History Knowledge Organiser

Topic: Crime and Punishment

Year 6—Autumn 1



Key Vocabulary

Prosecute	Conduct legal proceedings against someone
Reformation	To give up bad behaviour
Confinement	The state of being confined/imprisoned.
Weregild	A fine given for committing a crime
Treason	A crime against King, Queen or Government
Heresy	The holding of religious beliefs different to that of the King/Queen
Torture	Pain used as a punishment
Ordeal	A long, painful experience

Important Facts

*Understand how crime and punishment has developed; from the detailed legal system in Roman times, weregild in Anglo-saxons and Viking times, trials by ordeal in the middle ages, The Bloody Code in the Early modern period, the introduction of peelers in the Victorian period and the legal system we now know in the 20th and 21st century.

*Roman laws, written around 450 BC, were called the 'Twelve Tables'. Not following these rules was a crime. Punishments were severe to deter people from not following them. People could pay to have their punishment lessened. Anglo-Saxon people accused of a crime had a trial. If a decision as to whether the person was guilty or not guilty could not be made, a trial by ordeal would take place. It is thought that God would decide if they were guilty or not by the outcome of the ordeal. There were no prisons to send criminals to so punishments acted as huge deterrents and were often very brutal including stoning, whipping and hanging.

To deter people from committing crimes, the Tudors came up with even more terrifying punishments, including public executions. Public humiliations were common. The scold's bridle was worn for gossiping; the rack used to stretch out the victim's body for treason; and the dunking stool to find out if someone was a witch.

*The Victorians looked for alternative ways to hanging people for committing crimes. Many prisons were built in order to prevent people committing further crimes. Life in prison was very tough. Prisoners had to do very physically demanding tasks.

*Know about Robert Peel and how he created modern British policing.



Previous Knowledge

Romans—Yr 4

Anglo-Saxons—Y4

Vikings—Y5

Tudors—Yr 5



Timeline

43BC to 410 AD
Romans
Very detailed legal system

410AD to 1066AD
Anglo-Saxons and Vikings
Weregild

1066AD to 1154AD
Norman Period
Trials of Ordeal

1154AD to 1485AD
Middle Ages
Trials of Ordeal

1485AD to 1603AD
Tudor Period
Torture used to deter people

1603AD to 1714AD
The Stuarts

1837AD to 1901AD
Victorians
Introduction of police force

20th and 21st Centuries
New crimes due to developing age

1200AD
Trials of Ordeal ended

1965
Death Penalty Abolished in UK