

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Read Information Sheet A carefully, then see if you can fill in these gaps.



**Medieval and Tudor Crime and Punishment**

The Normans changed the way people were punished for \_\_\_\_\_ but not how they were caught and tried in a court. \_\_\_\_\_ was abolished, as was trial by \_\_\_\_\_. Now people could be fined but the money would go to the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Forests were created so kings could hunt \_\_\_\_\_. If you lived in a forest you weren't allowed to gather \_\_\_\_\_ or hunt \_\_\_\_\_. Forests covered about one \_\_\_\_\_ of England in the later medieval period.

Criminals could seek \_\_\_\_\_ in a church and escape punishment. Crimes against the church, though, like \_\_\_\_\_, were judged in special church \_\_\_\_\_.

Later in the medieval period, Justices of the \_\_\_\_\_ were not elected by the local community, but appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_. They were part of a move towards central control over law and order. A system in which everyone was involved was giving way to one in which law enforcement was the job of certain people.

The Tudor King \_\_\_\_\_ VIII changed the religion of the country and so lots of people were executed for \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. The punishment for \_\_\_\_\_ was being burned at the \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Use Information Sheet B to help you decide which of the sentences below belong to the Norman and early medieval period and which belong to the late medieval and Tudor period. You might decide some belong to both! Tick the correct boxes.



<p>Criminals could seek sanctuary in a church and their pursuers could not enter and catch them.</p> <p><b>Norman and Early Medieval</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Late Medieval and Tudor</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>There were 80 forests that covered one third of the area of England.</p> <p><b>Norman and Early Medieval</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Late Medieval and Tudor</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>There were lots more heretics burned at the stake because of the changes in religion in the country.</p> <p><b>Norman and Early Medieval</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Late Medieval and Tudor</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Forests were set up so the king could hunt deer. You weren't allowed to gather firewood in a forest unless you had a licence.</p> <p><b>Norman and Early Medieval</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Late Medieval and Tudor</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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How did crime and punishment change over the medieval and Tudor periods?

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use different sources of information to find out about crime and punishment from the time of the Norman Conquest to the end of the Tudor period. Use as much detail as you can.



What was crime and punishment like during the Norman and early medieval periods?

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What was crime and punishment like during the late medieval and Tudor periods?

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How did crime and punishment change between 1066 and 1603?

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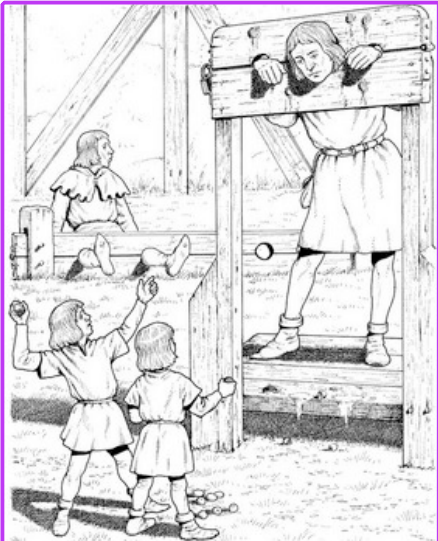
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## Medieval and Tudor Crime and Punishment



### Norman Law

The Normans invaded from France in 1066 and took over the country. Anglo-Saxon law continued to be used, with men standing as tithingmen and members of the community chasing after criminals themselves. Weregild and trial by ordeal were abolished. People could still be fined but the money wouldn't go to the victim or their family, it would go to the king. People were shamed after some crimes now, for instance by being put in the stocks so people could throw rotten vegetables at them.

### Forest Law

The Normans set up royal forests to hunt deer. The forests, which weren't all woods but had open land, farmed land and villages in them. By the end of the medieval period there would be about 80 forests covering a third of the area of England. It became illegal to gather firewood or hunt animals in these forests.

### The Church

The Church had its own courts for dealing with religious crimes like blasphemy (being rude about God or the church). Punishments were usually less harsh than other courts. People could pretend to be churchmen by reciting a bit of the Bible. This meant they could be tried by the Church to escape execution. Ordinary criminals could claim sanctuary in a church and no one was allowed to go in and get them.



### Later Medieval Period

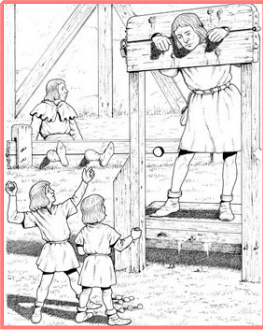
Because the population was growing and the better-off people in the towns thought they should control everyone else, new jobs were created that were a bit like the police, but unpaid. They were called constables, beades or watchmen and they were ordinary villagers or townspeople. The gentry and merchants also had a new job to do, as Justices of the Peace. These were appointed by the king. They held courts and gave out punishments to criminals.

### Tudor Period

The system was the same as the medieval period, but there were some specific crimes that became a problem. Heresy became more common in the Tudor period because of King Henry VIII and his children changing the religion of the country. The punishment for heresy was being burned at the stake. Because of the changes in religion, there were also rebellions and many people were executed for treason.



## Medieval and Tudor Crime and Punishment



### Norman Law

The Normans invaded from France in 1066 and took over the country. Anglo-Saxon law continued to be used, with men standing as tithingmen and members of the community chasing after criminals. Weregild and trial by ordeal were abolished by 1200. Instead people were mutilated (for example by having ears slit, hands cut off, etc.), executed or fined. The money from a fine wouldn't go to the victim or their family, it would go to the king. People were shamed after some crimes now, for instance being put in the stocks so people could throw rotten vegetables at them. Women that the village didn't approve of were often shamed by being put on the ducking stool and dipped in a pond.

### Forest Law

The Normans set up forests (which weren't all woods but had open land, farmed land and villages in them) so they could hunt for deer. The New Forest was set up in 1079 by William the Conqueror. 25 royal forests had been set up by 1087. Overnight it became a crime to gather firewood or catch animals for food without a licence if a forest was created around your village. By the end of the medieval period there would be about 80 forests, covering a third of the area of England.

### The Church

The church had its own courts for dealing with religious crimes like blasphemy (being rude about God or the church) or not attending church. Punishments were usually less harsh than other courts. People could pretend to be churchmen by reciting a bit of the Bible. Ordinary criminals could claim sanctuary in a church. The pursuers could not follow and the offender was allowed to leave the country.



### Later Medieval Period

Because the population was growing and the better-off people in the towns thought they should control everyone else, new jobs were created that were a bit like the police, but unpaid. They were called constables, bealdes or watchmen in different places and they were ordinary villagers or townspeople. The gentry and merchants also had a new job to do, as Justices of the Peace. These were appointed by the king. They held courts and gave out punishments to criminals. This was the first time sorting out crime became the job of particular people instead of the job of the whole community.

### Tudor Period

Henry VIII decided to break the English Church from Rome, but it remained Catholic. People who disagreed with him were either executed for treason or burned for heresy. His son Edward VI took the country to Protestantism so Catholics were burned. Mary I turned the country back to Catholicism and so burned Protestants.

Because of all these changes there were also rebellions and people trying to kill the king or queen. These people were also traitors and were executed by having their heads chopped off or hanging.



Henry VIII had also closed all the monasteries and given the land to the gentry. The monasteries had looked after the poor, so with them gone the poor got poorer and there were many more homeless people than before. Vagrancy and begging became crimes. No one wanted to look after them, so Elizabeth I was eventually persuaded to create a tax to support them and set up poor-houses for them to live in.

## Norman Criminal

Read the first bit to the rest of the class. Use the bulletpoints to answer their questions.

"Hello, my name is Wulfric. I've just had my hand cut off for poaching the king's deer in the New Forest."

- Deer were specifically meant for the king and no one else was allowed to eat them.
- It was a crime to hunt any animal in the forest, but Wulfric decided to hunt deer.
- Wulfric has a wife and family.
- He has a little bit of land that he farms, but he has to give some of his food to the lord.
- Without his hand he won't be able to farm as well and his family will be even hungrier.

## Tudor Criminal

Read the first bit to the rest of the class. Use the bulletpoints to answer their questions.

"Hello, my name is William. I have just been whipped for begging for food or work."

- William is homeless after he was turfed out of his house by a lord who wanted to create a sheep farm.
- No one will give him work because they are afraid he is a thief and don't trust him.
- He has been hounded out of seven villages because they don't want to have to pay to help him.
- There has just been a new law passed to whip beggars and vagabonds if they are found.

## Norman Lord

Read the first bit to the rest of the class. Use the bulletpoints to answer their questions.

"Hello, my name is Gerald and I am a lord. I hunt with the king in his forest, and I am very annoyed when I find out a villager has been stealing the king's deer."

- Gerald lives in a castle near the New Forest and holds courts to punish people who poach from the forest.
- Gerald has to answer to the king if people are stealing from the forest.
- Gerald has a wife and family and a large household of servants.
- He gets food from his villeins, like Wulfric, who grow food on their farms rented from Gerald.

## Tudor Gentleman

Read the first bit to the rest of the class. Use the bulletpoints to answer their questions.

"Hello, my name is Thomas and I am a gentleman. I am offended by the sight of the lazy poor begging at the side of the road."

- Thomas got a large estate when Henry VIII shut down a local monastery.
- He is the one who wanted to create a sheep farm and so turfed people out of their houses.
- He objects to paying a tax to look after the poor.
- He is an MP and voted for the law to whip vagabonds and beggars.

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