

Year: 4
 Term: Spring 2
 Topic: How have the way crimes are punished changed over time?



Forever Facts:

Justice in the Middle Ages depended almost entirely on the community. Their only hope of protection from theft and violence was for everyone in the village to work together.

Medieval justice was loaded in favour of the rich and powerful; if you ran away from justice you would be declared an outlaw and could be killed on sight.

In 18th century there was a massive increase in the number of crimes for which people could be hanged. It was known as the Bloody Code. With no police force to protect their property MPs used the threat of capital punishment which they thought would act as a strong deterrent.

In the 19th century, transportation was used as a punishment.

In Victorian times, if a child committed a crime, they were punished in the same way as an adult.

The Metropolitan police was formed by Sir Robert Peel in 1829.

Glossary

- Capital punishment** Executions.
- Corporal punishment** Physical punishment.
- constable** Someone with responsibility for law and order.
- execute** Put someone to death.
- felony** A serious crime.
- heresy** Beliefs not allowed by the Church.
- larceny** Theft.
- medieval** From the Middle Ages (approximately 1000 to 1500 AD).
- outlaw** Someone on the run to escape justice.
- pillory** Wooden frame in which standing criminals were placed with arms and head locked and often pelted with rotten food.
- poaching** Entering land illegally to steal animals.
- stocks** Wooden blocks used to hold offenders legs, often on public display.
- transportation** Taking prison convicts to spend years away from home in a distant land such as Australia.
- treason** Crime of plotting against the monarch or country.
- Trial by combat** Fight to see if someone guilty or not.
- vagrant** Person who wandered from place to place in search of work.

