



Lowerhouse Junior School History Overview Sheet



Year 6 – How have crime and punishment, in Lancashire, changed throughout the ages?



Rationale: Throughout history, crime and punishment have changed significantly in Britain. For instance, during the Victorian era, the introduction of the police force made a remarkable difference in how crimes were managed. Before this, communities often relied on informal systems of justice, such as local constables. Understanding these developments helps us see not only how society evolved but also how our modern justice system was shaped. By exploring these historical changes, we gain a deeper appreciation for the rights and laws we enjoy today.

Substantive Knowledge:

By the end of our Crime and Punishment topic you will be able to:

- Explain some key terms in the history of crime and punishment in Britain, such as wergild, trial by ordeal, tithings, hue and cry, treason, transportation and hard labour.
- Use primary sources to decide what facts, what opinions can be formed from the evidence, & identify the questions they have about a topic.
- Compare modern day crime and punishment with those from the past, and talk about the legacy of past methods of crime prevention and detection with those of the present day.

Overview:

Lesson 1: Artefact Session – Preston Jail Penal Treadmill
Lesson 2: Introduction to Crime and Punishment Through the Ages - To understand the concept of crime and punishment and identify key periods in British history.
Lesson 3: Crime and Punishment in Medieval Lancashire - To investigate medieval justice systems and their impact on society in Lancashire.
Lesson 4: Crime and Punishment in the Tudor and Victorian Periods - To describe and compare how crime and punishment evolved
Lesson 5: Modern Crime and Punishment in Lancashire - To explore how modern approaches to crime and punishment reflect changes in society.
Lesson 6: How Have Crime and Punishment in Lancashire Changed Over Time?

Key Vocabulary

Deterrent - To discourage someone from doing something.
Execution - A sentence of death.
Highwaymen - Criminals who would rob people while they were travelling. This was very common during the Stuart and Georgian periods.
Humiliation - To make someone feel ashamed & foolish.
Judge - Someone who is in charge of a trial in court.
Jury - A group of people who would listen to the facts in a trial and decide if the person is guilty or not guilty.
Legion - legion a unit of 3,000–6,000 men in the ancient Roman army.
Ordeal - A long and painful experience treason - Crime against the King, Queen or government.

Key Knowledge

The Tower of London was used as a prison during Tudor and Stuart times; some of its most famous prisoners include Queen Elizabeth I (during the reign of her sister Mary), Sir Walter Raleigh and Guy Fawkes.

The Tudors saw vagrancy and stealing as serious crimes

Highwaymen were more common in Stuart and Georgian times because trade was increasing and there were more wealthy people who were travelling on the roads. The most famous was Dick Turpin (1705 – 1739)

The police force was first introduced in London in 1829. Sir Robert Peel introduced them as part of a campaign to improve public law. These policemen were called 'Bobbies' or 'Peelers'. By 1839, other areas