

Start-up Task: Match the crime (#) with the punishment (letter)

You be the judge!

Tudor laws may have been batty – but the punishments were downright mean. On the right is a list of Tudor punishments – below is a list of crimes. Can you match the punishment to the crime?

1



BEING A TRAMP

2



A WOMAN POISONS HER HUSBAND

3



A MAN POISONS ANOTHER MAN – (EVEN IF THE VICTIM DOES NOT DIE)

4



LYING IN COURT – "PERJURY"

5



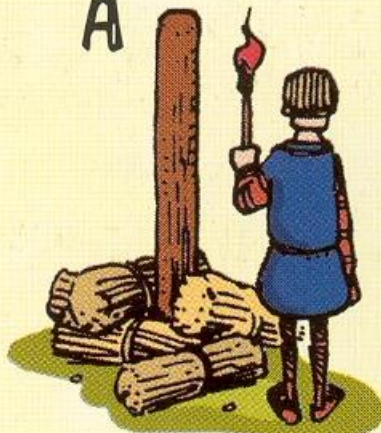
HELPING OR SHELTERING SOMEONE WHO IS A MURDERER

6



STEALING

A



BEING BURNED ALIVE

B



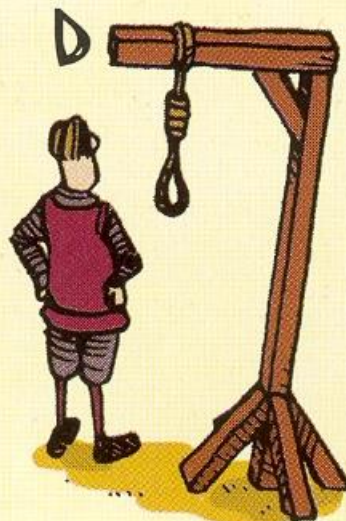
BRANDED WITH THE LETTER 'F' (FELON) ON THE CHEEK, EARS CUT OFF, NOSTRILS SLIT AND HANDS CUT OFF

C



BEING WHIPPED AND HAVING A HOLE BURNED THROUGH THE RIGHT EAR

D



DEATH BY HANGING

E



TO BE BOILED IN WATER OR LEAD

F



BRANDED ON THE FOREHEAD WITH A LETTER 'P' USING A HOT IRON

MEDIEVAL CRIME & LAW



Equitur ut:
Après ce q̄ valere
ou chypre precedet



Court Scene with Prisoner in Chains.
Valerius Maximus. *Les faits et les Dis des Romains*, c1473-80.
BL MS Harley 4375 f. 141.

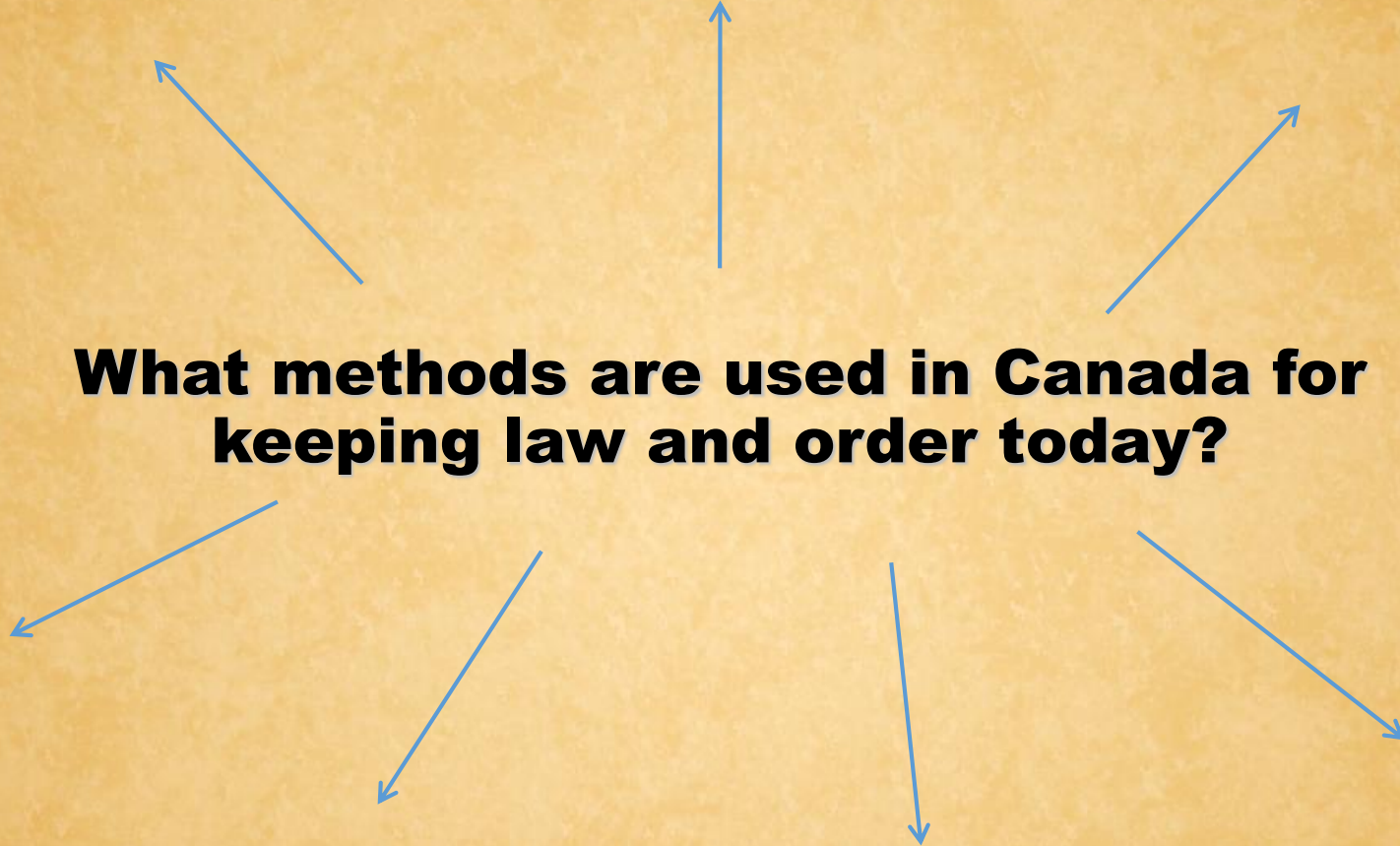


Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this lesson I can:

- Describe what crime, punishment, and law was like in Medieval Europe

What methods are used in Canada for keeping law and order today?



Some Key Definitions:

- **Crime:** an act that breaks a law
- **Defendant:** a person accused of wrongdoing
- **Justice:** fair treatment
- **Law:** rule(s) established by authority or custom
- **Punishment:** a penalty for an offence

- Law and order was very harsh in Medieval England. It was believed that people would only learn how to behave properly if they feared what would happen to them if they broke the law. Even the 'smallest' offences had serious punishments.

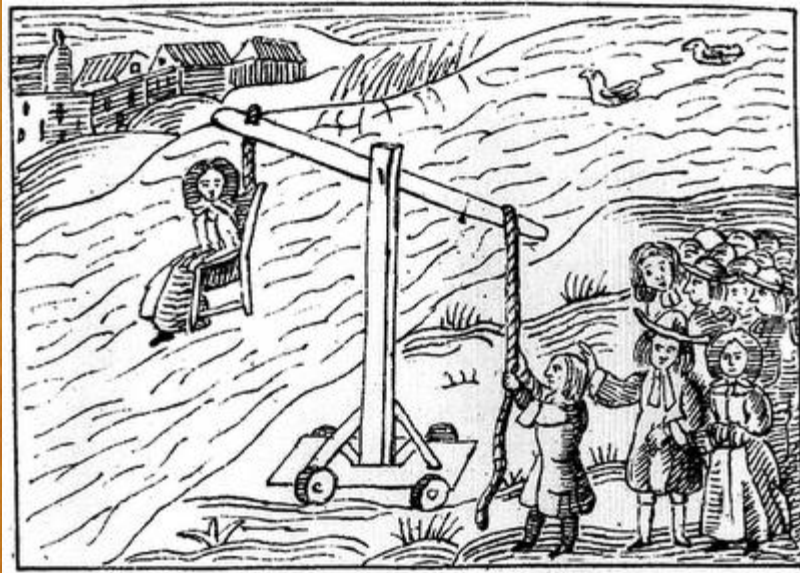


Upon London Bridge I saw three or four men's heads stand upon poles. Upon Ludgate Arch the top quarter of a man is set upon a pole. Upon the other side hangeth the bottom quarter with the leg. It is a strange sight to see the hair of the heads fall off or shrivel away while the gristle of the nose is eaten away and the fingers of the hands wrinkle and wither to the bare bones. It is a sight for all young people and a warning to them that they should behave themselves.



TRIAL BY ORDEAL

- Horrible Histories video (19:14)



ORDEAL BY FIRE

Accused holds red hot iron bar



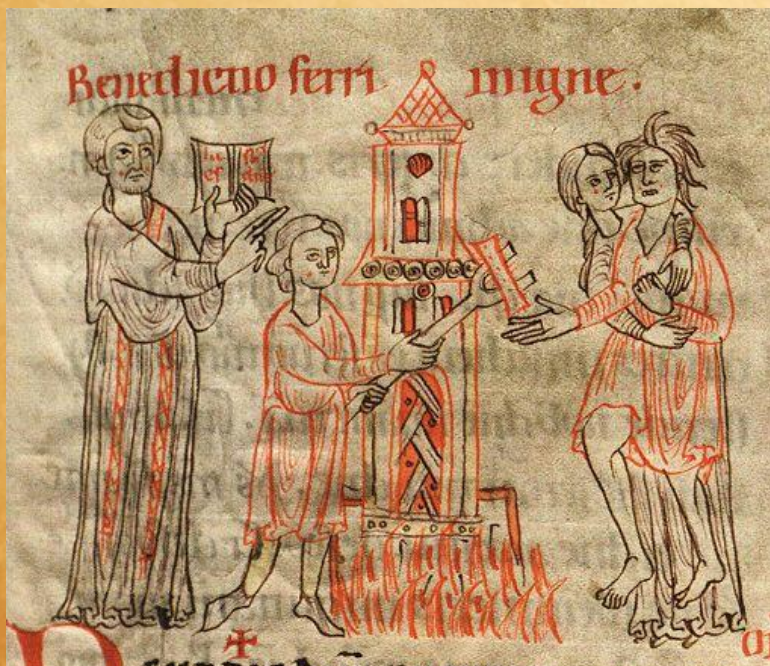
Walk 3-5 paces holding it



Hand is bandaged and left for a certain number of days



If it is healing = innocent
if it is not = guilty



ORDEAL BY WATER

The accused person is tied up



They are thrown into water



Float = guilty
Sink = innocent
(but dead)



ORDEAL BY COMBAT

This was used by noblemen who had been accused of something.

Accused fights
the Accuser



Whoever wins =
right



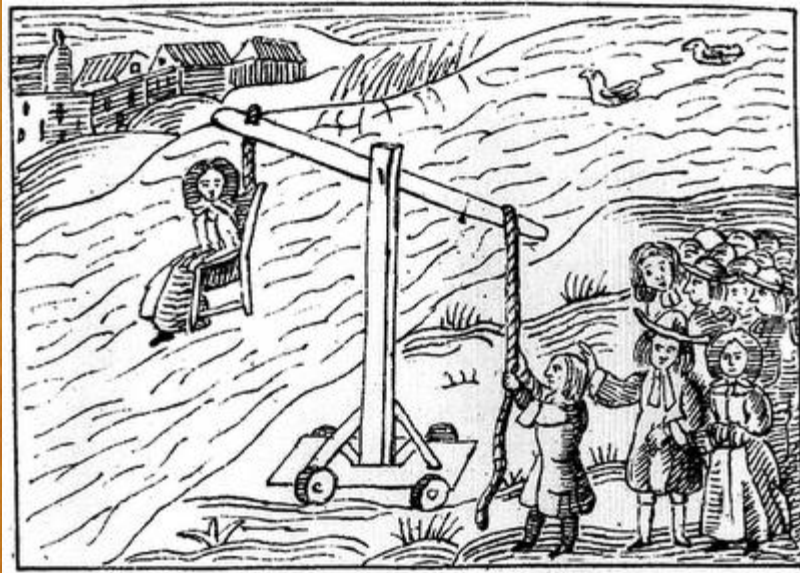
Whoever lost
was usually
dead at the end
of the fight



Trial by battle, from the
Hampshire Court
Records, 1249.

TRIAL BY ORDEAL

Why? God would save those who were innocent...



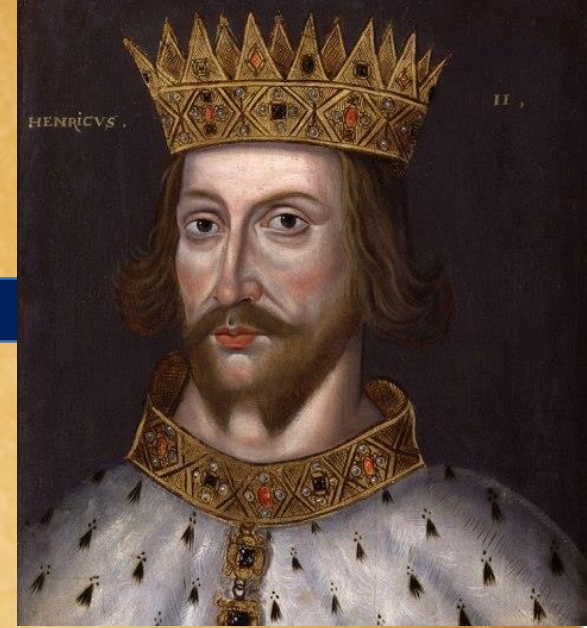


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2xlQaimsGg>

CHANGES TO LAW

By the time of Henry II (1154), the system of law in England had been improved:

- Brought in trial by jury
- No more trial by ordeal
- Sent judges to different towns throughout country to try cases

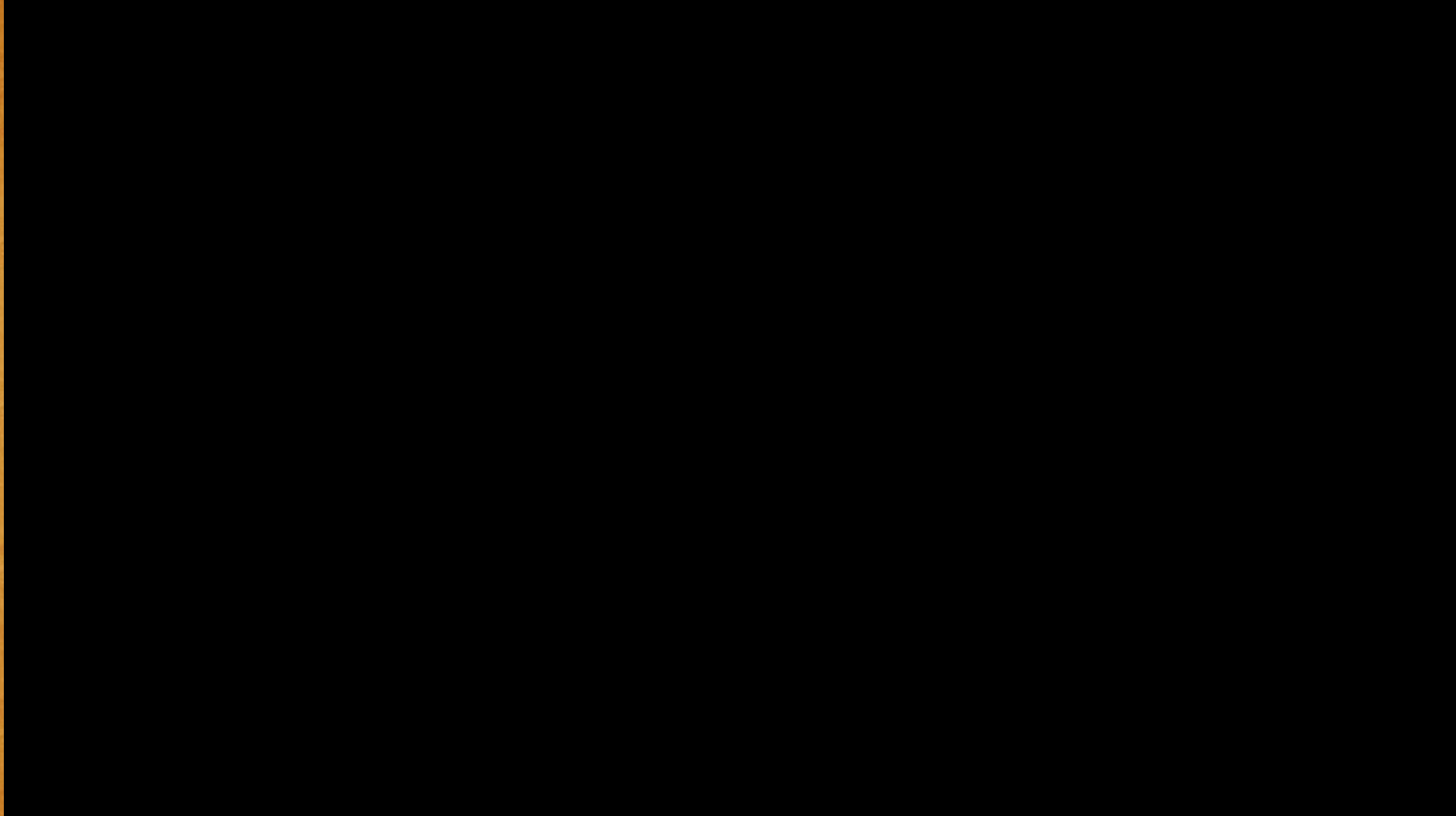




In 1215, the Pope decided that priests in England must not help with ordeals. As a result, ordeals were replaced by trials by juries.

After 1275, a law was introduced which allowed people to be tortured if they refused to go to trial before a jury.





MEDIEVAL COURTS



Read your textbook pages _____, about the different types of courts:

- Royal Court
- Church Court
- Manor Court

Answer the question on your handout about the different types of courts.



Letting animals wander



Taking wood from the hedge or fence round the pasture field



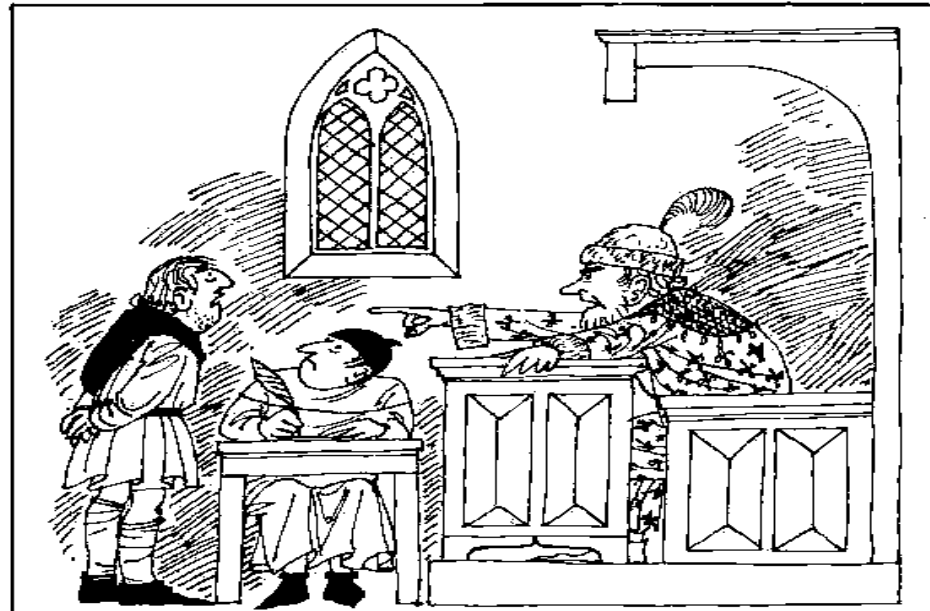
Dodging work such as mending paths



Letting weeds grow



Digging holes in the road for clay



The court in the manor with the lord or more often his steward or bailiff as judge and jury



Taking wood from hedges for the fire



Having lodgers the lord did not like



Digging up waste land without permission



Moving boundary stones



Taking wild honey from trees in woods



Not marrying the person the lord told you to



Leaving the village without the lord's permission

PUNISHMENTS: EXECUTION

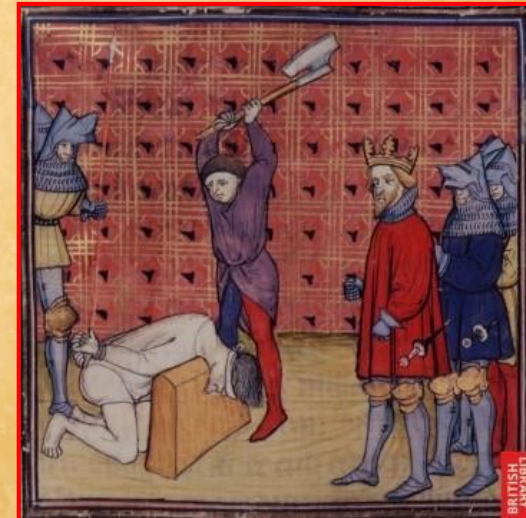
Usually Men
were hung
for crimes
like murder



Women were
burned to
death for
crimes like
murder

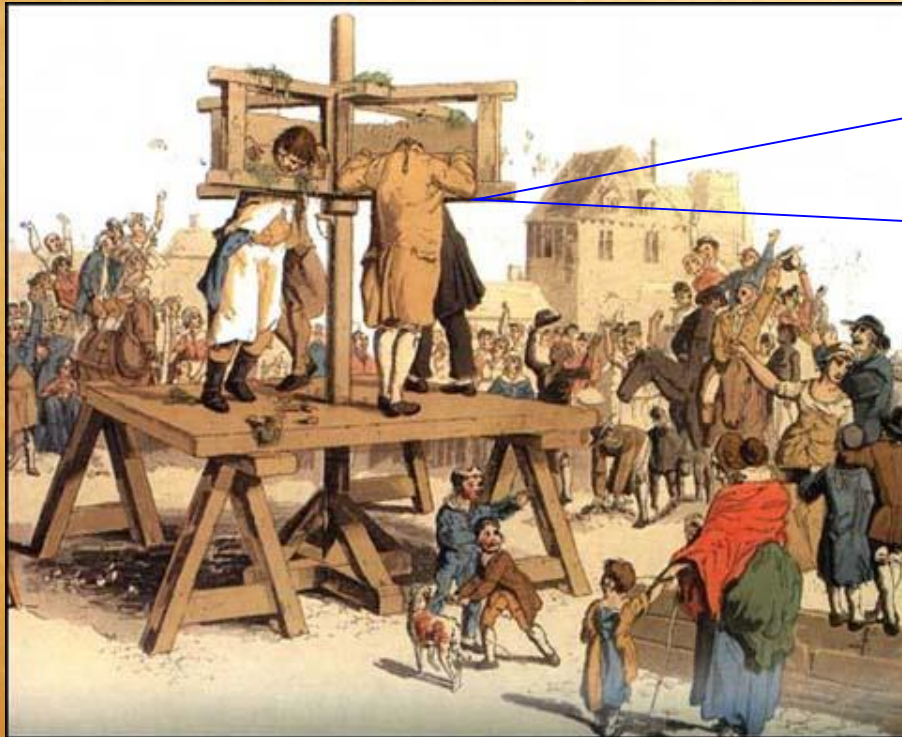


Nobles and
rich people
were
beheaded
for serious
crimes



PUNISHMENTS: PILLORIES

The Pillories (arms and head)
was a type of punishment for crimes not thought to be
severe.



Once the accused was in the stocks the crowd threw vegetables and fruit that were rotten, mud, dead rodents especially rats, excrement and stones.

PUNISHMENTS: THE STOCKS

The Stocks (legs and arms) were also a punishment for mild crimes. Some villages had Pillories, some had stocks and some had both



The stocks were also used in prison cells

CRIMES FOR STOCKS & PILLORIES

Robbery and Perjury - 24 hours

Trader cheating customers - 12 hours

Drunkenness - 6 hours

Swearing - 1 hour



These are the words, that are called swearing: thief, murderer, liar, ba-----d, arsonist, son of a bitch, whore, prostitute, witch.

PUNISHMENTS: BURGLARY

Punishments were designed to stop people doing the same thing again.

A pickpocket would have his hand cut off

A rapist would have his genitals cut off



PUNISHMENTS

- Read through the “Medieval Punishments” handout
- Fill in the chart with 5 different crimes and punishments
- Decide if **you** think they are fair/unfair and explain **why**

REFLECTION QUESTION



Justice
For
Murderers

Do you think that it is right to have a death penalty?

(i.e. should we ever be able to execute people for their crimes?)



Explain your answer in a paragraph (at least **5 sentences**) by considering both sides of the argument.

Why do we kill people who kill people to show killing people is wrong?