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
Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this lesson I can:

➢ To 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)
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)
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 ORDEAL

Why? God would save those who were innocent...
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.
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
Digging holes in the road for clay
Having lodgers the lord did not like
Moving boundary stones
Taking wood from the hedge or fence round the pasture field
Dodging work such as mending paths
Letting weeds grow
Taking wood from hedges for the fire
Digging up waste land without permission
Leaving the village without the lord’s permission

The court in the manor with the lord or more often his steward or bailiff as judge and jury
Taking wild honey from trees in woods
Not marrying the person the lord told you to
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
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 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

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.