

Has crime always been punished fairly?

• Rebellion  • Society 
Year 5/6 Term 5





Hidden Figure – Jane Wenham



She was accused of being a witch and fought against the charge. Although she was originally found guilty and sentenced to death, she was later pardoned by Queen Anne.

Key historical concepts

- Cause and consequence 
- Change and continuity 

Timeline

1100s	Legend of Robin Hood is said to have occurred
1300s	Tithings were used as juries to put people on trial for their crimes
1531 – 1598	Various laws were introduced which introduced punishments for vagrancy
1542	King Henry VIII passed a law making witchcraft a capital offence
1723	The Waltham Black Act (known as the Bloody Code) was introduced
1815	The crime rate rapidly increased
1829	Sir Robert Peel establishes Metropolitan Police – the first UK police force

Key Learning

- Punishments have changed significantly throughout Britain's history.
- Justice in the middle ages depended almost entirely on the community – people were less likely to be found guilty as they were trialled by their peers.
- Medieval justice was loaded in favour of the rich and powerful
- Between 1500 and 1750 due to government legislation – effectively creating new crime.
- In order to combat the rise in petty crimes, the Bloody Code was introduced to impose harsher penalties on more crimes. This was meant to deter criminals and although the number of crimes went up, the number of executions actually went down
- In 1815 the crime rate rapidly increased due to a myriad of reasons including population growth, increase in unemployment and rise of food prices
- Crime decreased again after 1850 due to the introduction of a national police force and the prison reform system.
- The nature of crime has changed as our society has changed and different laws have been brought in. This has also affected the way we punish crimes, which leans more towards prison sentences and fines and in the UK, we no longer use any kind of corporal punishment.

Key vocabulary	
The Bloody Code	A system which imposed the death penalty for over 200, often petty, offences
corporal punishment	Punishment that is intended to cause physical pain
Human Rights Act 1998	This gives every person the right to equal treatment under the law
outlaw	Someone who has run away from justice and is evading capture.
petty crimes	A minor offence such as theft or trespassing
sentence	The punishment assigned to a defendant found guilty
tithing	A group of ten men from the local community used as juries
vagrancy	The state of living as a vagrant (being homeless).
witchcraft	The alleged use of magic as part of religious practice.



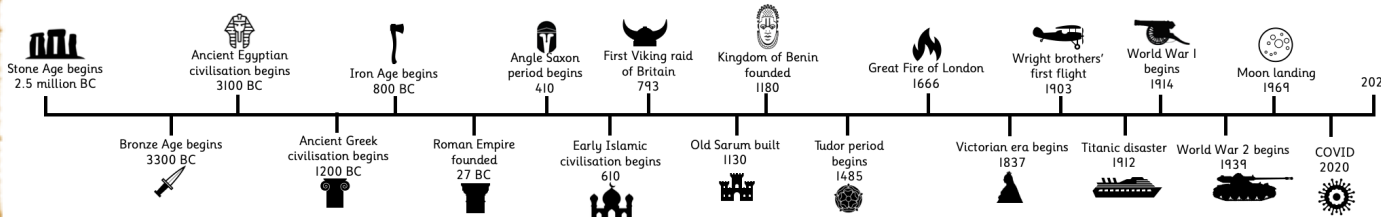
Big Ideas – Our Learning Journey

Reception
Rebellion – Nursery Rhymes
Society – Memory Box

Year 1/2
Rebellion – Castles
Society – Seaside, Great Fire of London, Toys

Year 3/4
Rebellion – Romans,
Society – Stone Age to Iron Age, Vikings

Year 5/6
Rebellion – Crime and punishment
Society – Benin, Mayans, Islam, Victorians, Salisbury and WWI



Ethics

Is capital punishment ever justified?