

I should already know:

How the Norman Conquest changed social, political and economic life in England

I will learn:

The factors that drove crime in the middle ages:

- Religious ideas
- Poverty
- Political change
- Increased population
- Increases in taxes
- New technologies
- Greater movement of people

The role of law enforcement in the middle ages:

- Role of local communities
- Government spending
- Increased population
- New technology

The role of punishment factors:

- For deterrence, revenge or reform?
- Fear of crime
- Social change
- The role of individuals

This will help in the future:

Anglo Saxon and Norman England in year 10

Key Words

Middle Ages: Punishment

Crime	An illegal action or activity for which a person can be punished by law.
Punishment	A response to crime, aimed to seek justice against the criminal
Law	The rules a society or government uses to keep peace and order
Enforcement	The means by which laws are maintained and punishments are delivered
Hierarchy	Organizing people or things into an order of importance, such as religious
Population	The number of people in a country, including how they are spread (i.e high population areas such as towns and cities)
Crime rate	The frequency of crime in an area
Petty theft	The crime of stealing something that is not of high value
Pillory (stock)	A wooden frame with holes for the head and hands to stick through. A middle ages form of punishment



Why did the law and punishment focus on physical retribution in this time?

What are the biggest differences to law enforcement and punishment today?

Greater Depth Challenge

How significant was religion for people's attitudes towards crime and punishment in this period?

Further Reading

Watch 'The Strange case of the Law', ep 1 on Youtube

Summarise your learning: Middle ages crime

Petty theft

In Saxon England 75% of all crime was theft of small items e.g. food, livestock.



Forest Law

Made all the forests and animals in them property of the King. Created the crime of **poaching** (illegal hunting)

Murdrum Fine

If a Norman soldier was killed, all of the local community had to pay a fine. Aimed to prevent **treason**

Harrying of the North

Soon after William became King there was a large rebellion in the North. William defeated the rebellion. To **deter** further rebellions and to show the Saxons who was boss he **murdered villagers, burned homes and crops**. This cruel treatment was called the **Harrying of the North**.

Outlaw

A criminal who escaped capture and went 'on the run', committing many crimes over a long period of time. E.g. the **Folville Gang**

Middle ages: punishment

Wergild

'**Blood price**'. Saxon system of compensation paid to the victim

Mutilation

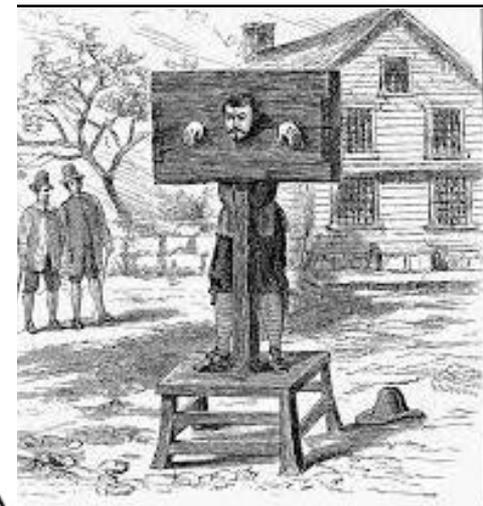
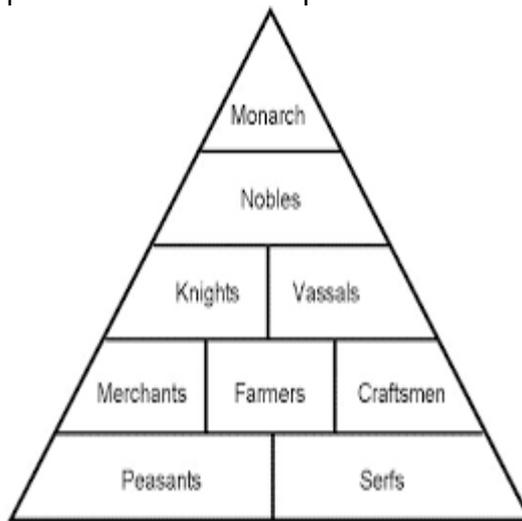
Severe damage to your body. People caught stealing several times would have their hand cut off.
Continued under the Normans for repeat offenders and poachers. Whipping added.

Humiliation

Petty crimes and drunkenness was punished by the stocks or pillory.
An addition to stocks and pillory, carting and ducking added for minor crimes.

Execution

Hanging, used much more frequently by the Normans compared to Saxons. Punishment for treason and murder.



THE PILLORY.

Knowledge Organiser Focus:

Crime and Punishment: Middle ages 1000-1500

Summarise your learning: law enforcement

Hue and cry	Witnesses to a crime had to raise the hue and cry – Stop, thief!. Anyone who heard had to join the chase to catch the criminal or face a fine.
Tithing	All men over 12 had to join a tithing. A group of 10 men. If one of the group committed a crime the others had to tell or pay a fine.
Reeve	In charge of 10 tithings. When a crime was reported the Reeve had to bring the criminal before the Manor Court
Manor Court	The whole village was jury with the Lord as judge.
Trial by Ordeal	If the jury could not decide then the decision was placed in God's hands through trails by hot water, hot iron and blessed bread (for clergy)
Sherriff	'high reeve' in French could command peasants to help chase criminals in his posse.

Chronology: Middle ages law enforcement: what happened on these dates?

1066	Normans invade and win the battle of Hastings. William the Conqueror is crowned King. William abolishes Wergild ; all fines are now paid to the King. The Normans add 'trial by combat' to trial by ordeal.
1215	Trial by ordeal banned by the Pope
1300s sanctuary	Claimed by criminals on the run when they reached a church. They could stay for 40 days, after which they had to face trial or go into exile.
1300s benefit of clergy	Priests would not be executed . To prove you were a priest you had to recite a verse from the bible. Criminals learnt verses off by heart to avoid execution by hanging. This was known as the 'neck verse'.
1300s Church courts	Heard cases involving priests. These courts gave much less harsh sentences than normal courts.
1300s quarter sessions	Held in each county four times a year, heard serious cases by ordinary people e.g. murder. Judges were Justices of the Peace – the most powerful local lord.
1300s Royal Court	Judges who were appointed by the King. Travelled around the country 2 or 3 times a year to hear the most serious cases e.g. crimes committed against the King, the church, by nobles.

Summarise your learning: law enforcement

Chronology: Middle ages law enforcement: what happened on these dates?

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Tithing		1215	
Reeve		1300s sanctuary	
		1300s benefit of clergy	
Manor Court		1300s Church courts	
		1300s quarter sessions	
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