

Teacher Notes

Between a Rack and a Hard Place

Synopsis

The lives of the Tudor rich and poor are laid to bare as we go on location in Tudor households, sneak a quick word with some of those not quite so happy with their social standing, and see how those who step outside the line receive the most gruelling of punishments!

Lesson ideas:

The Burning Question

History: Compare crime and punishment in Tudor times to those in the modern-day era.

Investigating Inventories

History: Explore inventories from the Tudor era to compare what life was like. Use the animations to create your own inventories.

Diamond 9:

PSHE: Discuss some of the common punishments of the Tudor period and pick the four most useful for society.

The Tower Graph of London:

Maths: Complete the graph and answer the questions about prisoners in the Tower of London.

Tudor Houses

Create and decorate a house in the style of a Tudor house. Go one step further and create some windows, because they've just been invented!

Key questions to consider:

Could these punishments exist in the 21st Century? Explain your answer.

How do Tudor possessions compare to our modern-day possessions?

Why were some punishments used only for women?

What was the purpose of making punishments so public?

History Curriculum objectives:

- Use evidence to show how the lives of rich and poor differed
- NI: Comparing an aspect of the community over a long period of time, for example, crime
- Welsh Progression Step 4: I can analyse, present and reflect on my findings, describing patterns and explaining relationships across data and sources.
- SOC 2-04a can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.

Cross-curricula objectives:

- DT: select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities
- Maths: (4SI) Interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs
- English: explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates.

Tudor Crime Animation - Comprehension

Why would paying a fine be an effective punishment for most Tudor people?

List three foods mentioned in the animation that Tudor people eat.

Why did people enjoy seeing criminals tied to the whipping post?

Why do you think 'gossips' were given the scold's bridle, rather than being tied to the whipping post?

Why would a punishment be given specifically to a woman to 'keep her in line'? Is that fair?

Why do you think the punishments for crimes against the king and queen were so brutal?

Do you think life was easier for poor people or rich people in Tudor times?



Tudor Crime Animation - Comprehension

Why would paying a fine be an effective punishment for most Tudor people?

They wouldn't have the money to pay the fine so might not commit crimes.

List three foods mentioned in the animation that Tudor people eat.

pottage, grey bread, venison

Why did people enjoy seeing criminals tied to the whipping post?

There wasn't much to do in the way of entertainment in Tudor times so for a lot of people, public humiliation of criminals was a form of being entertained.

Why do you think 'gossips' were given the scold's bridle, rather than being tied to the whipping post?

The punishment fit the crime. Gossiping involves talking too much about people so using a scold's bridle physically stopped women from talking.

Why would a punishment would be given specifically to a woman to keep her in line? Is that fair?

Women were not seen to have held as an important a role in Tudor society as men so having women specific punishments was a way to keep women in line. No, it isn't fair – women should be treated the same as everyone.

Why do you think the punishments for crimes against the king and queen were so brutal?

To show how much power the queen and king had. The punishments were so brutal as a way to stop people from even thinking or talking about committing crimes against the king or queen.

Do you think life was easier for poor people or rich people in Tudor times?

Various answers, with a justified opinion

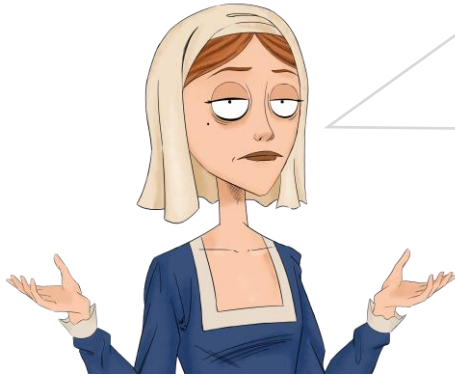


Tudor Crime – Concept Cartoon



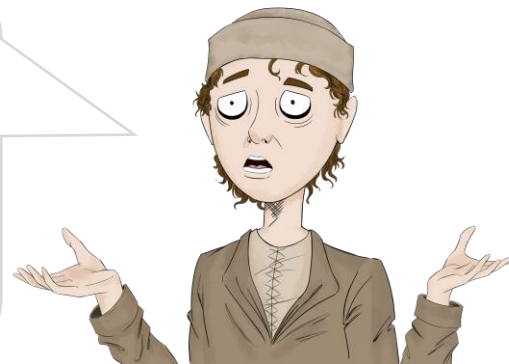
“Read the opinions below about the effect of Tudor crime on society. Discuss each of the opinions and then try and form your own. Why do you feel this way about crime and punishment? Is it different to those in your group?”

The punishments are too much! Everything is so brutal. One mistake, one foot wrong and we’re put into the most horrifying, painful punishment, most of which end up with death! Surely there’s a better way of doing it!?



You get what you deserve, right? Isn’t that the whole point? If our punishments scare people into stopping doing something illegal, or stop them from doing something they’ve already done once, then they’ve worked! Off with our heads!

We poor folk have it worst! I can’t afford to pay fines so I end up getting whipped in front of everyone. Why does it have to be so public? It’s so strange that people enjoy it! I think I am for punishments, but I don’t think they should be so public. That just makes me angrier at the government!



Crime and Punishment

Read the statements below. Which do you think were considered crimes by the Tudors? Tick the three answers you think and don't worry if it is a guess!

Stealing a bird's egg		Eating pudding with a knife and fork	
Throwing waste out on to the streets		Playing cards on a holy day	
Not wearing a woollen hat on Sundays		Sleeping past daybreak	

The Tudors had some pretty nasty punishments. Match the punishment to the crime.

Stealing

Refusing to stand trial

Poisoning someone

Speaking ill of the monarchy

Being crushed between two rocks

Hung, drawn and quartered

Being whipped publicly at the whipping post

Being boiled alive in a cauldron

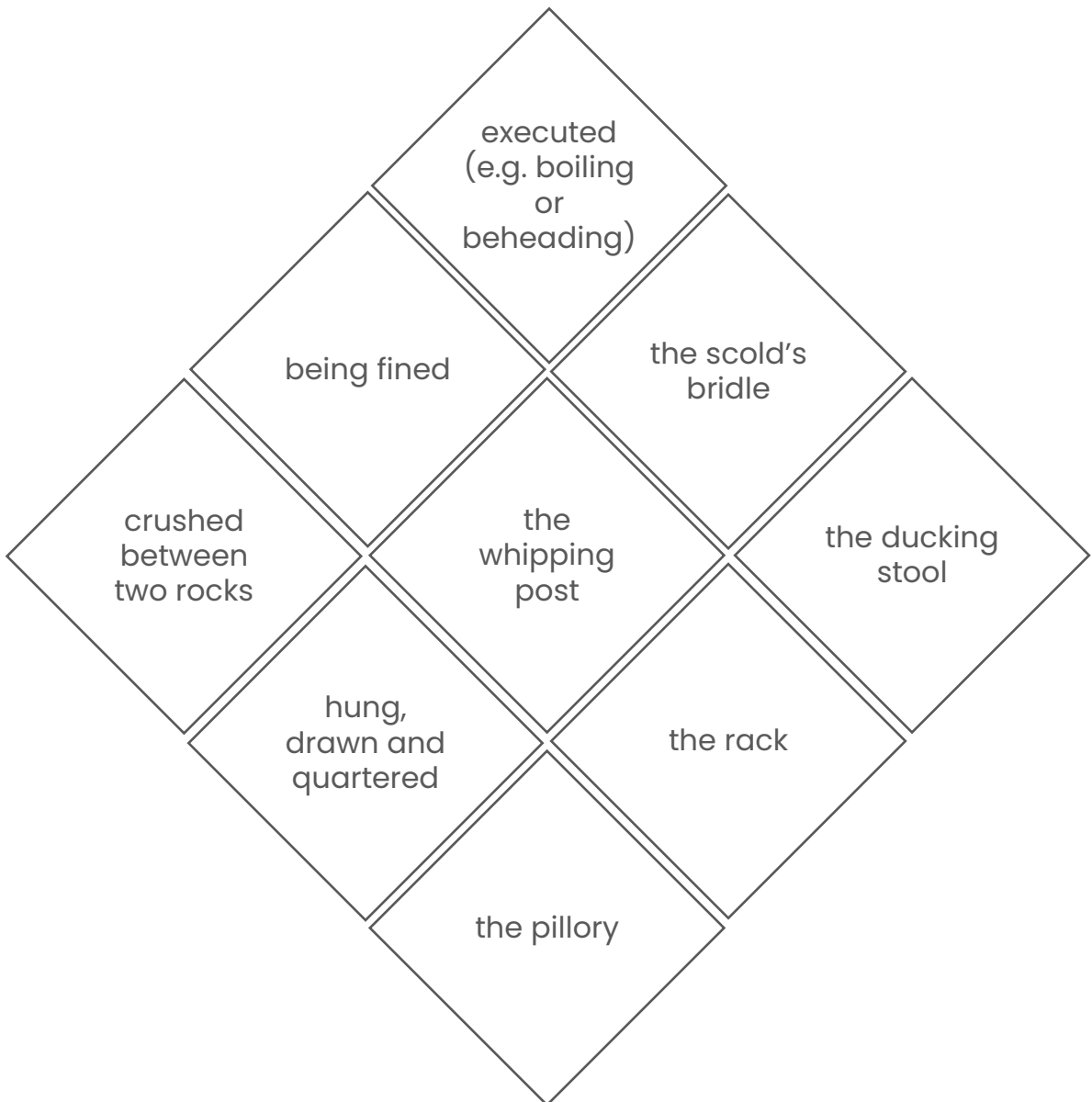
Punishments in Tudor times were very different to modern day punishments in most societies. Discuss with a partner and explain how today's punishments are different, and why you think these changes in punishments have happened?

Diamond 9 – Crime and Punishment



"Tudor punishments were pretty varied! Cut out and order the punishments below in a diamond shape, from most severe at the top to least severe at the bottom. For each, explain why they were an important or effective punishment in Tudor society."

Once you have ordered the punishments, select four that you think could be used to most effectively govern Tudor society, and keep people happy.

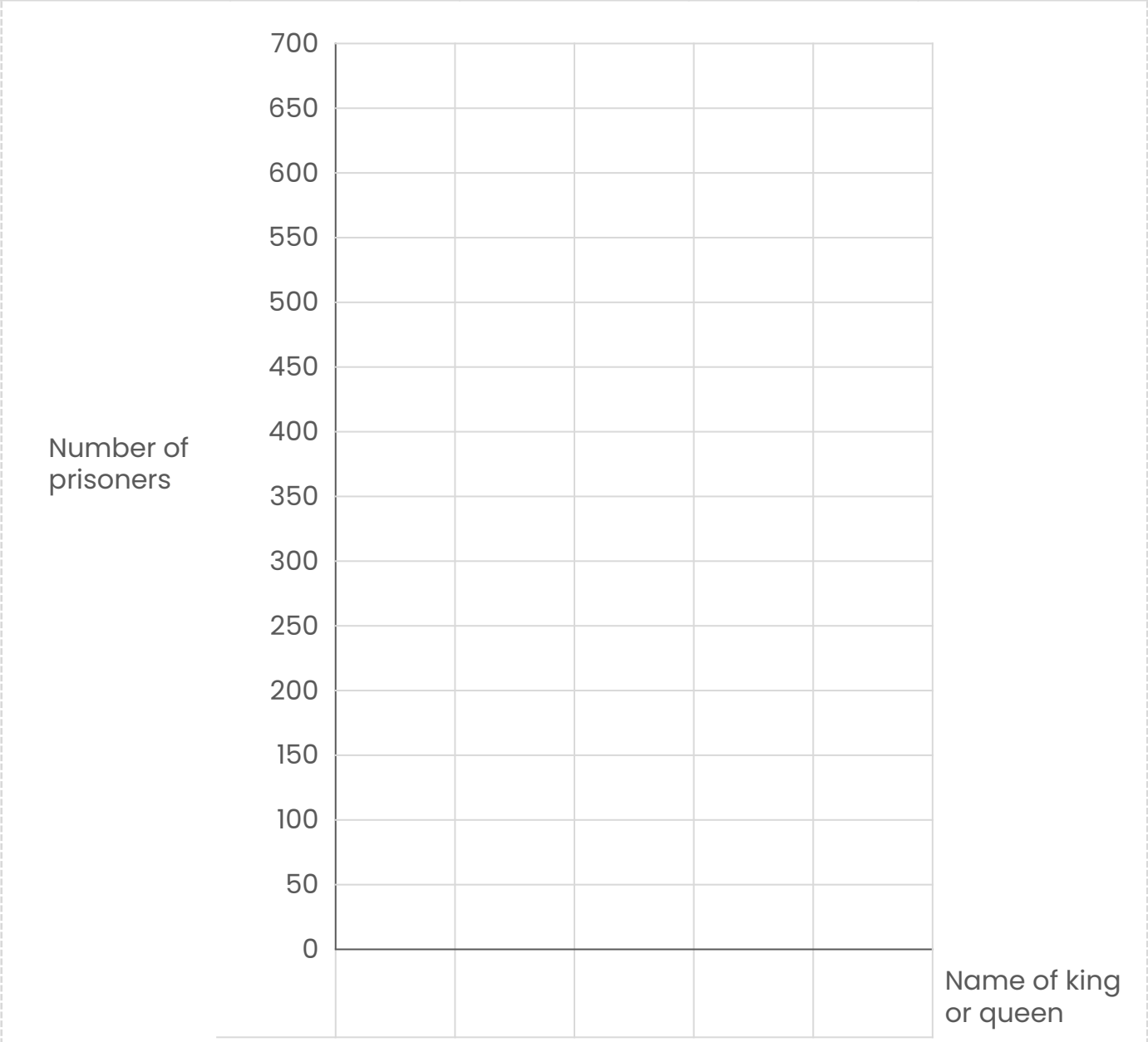


Crime and Punishment – The Stats



“Whilst there was no police in Tudor times, there are some VERY ROUGH records about prisoners in the most famous (and notorious) Tudor prison – the Tower of London. Use the table to complete the graph and answer the questions below.”

King/Queen and how long they reigned	Henry VIII (1509 – 1547)	Edward VII (1547 – 1553)	Mary I (1553 – 1558)	Elizabeth I (1558 – 1603)
Number of prisoners in the Tower of London during their reign	414	161	174	687
Numbers are approximate and based on a range of sources				



Tower of London Prisoner Stats

Why do you think the records are only approximate, rather than exact?

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Which king or queen put the most people in the Tower of London?

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Which king or queen put the least people in the Tower of London.

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Why is the length of reign (the time they ruled for) important when looking at how many people were put in prison by each king and queen?

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Thinking about the previous question, which king or queen was actually the most brutal for putting people in prison? Who did it the most regularly? What reasons do you think they had for doing this?

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What would a suitable title for the graph be?

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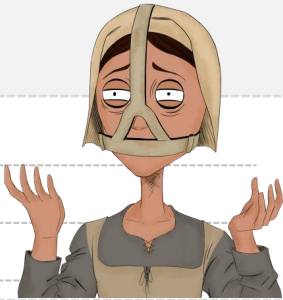
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Create two of your own questions about the graph for someone else to answer.

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Tudor Houses



“The animation should glimpses of Tudors in their homes. The farms out in the villages could be rundown, but the houses in towns took on a very unique style – a style that can still be seen in England today. Study the image from the animation to create your own Tudor houses.”

Equipment

Two rectangular boxes, one smaller than the other

Glue

Black paper, card or felt

White paper

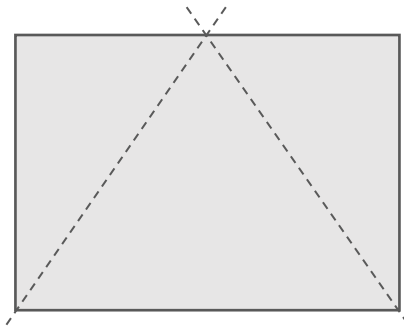
Brown card

Step 1

Glue the small cardboard box together so that it is closed.

Step 2

On the large rectangular box, cut the short ends so that they are triangular in shape (Do not cut them off the box!)



Step 3

Glue the long ends of the box to the edges of triangles at the end to form the basis of a roof.

Step 4

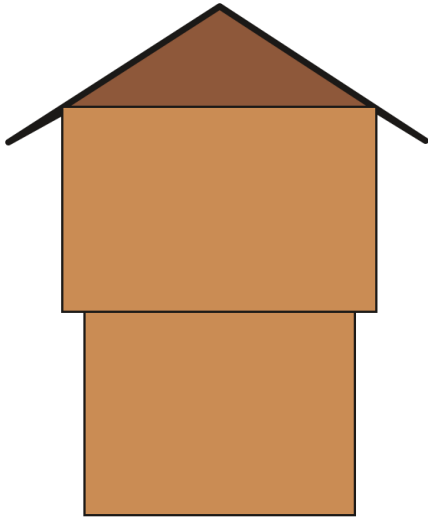
Fold a piece of paper in half and place over the roof. Trim if needed.



Tudor Houses

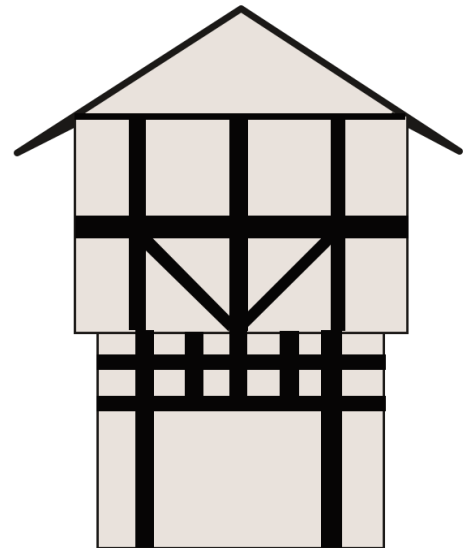
Step 5

Glue the large box on top of the small box.



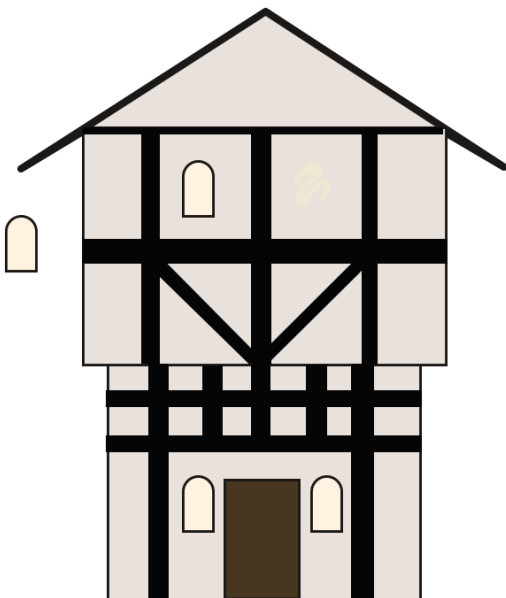
Step 6

Decorate using black felt to show the beams on the walls. The Tudors Enjoyed symmetry in their designs so Keep this in mind.



Step 7

Add windows and a wooden door. Remember, glass was expensive so the windows were small!



Step 8

Create little tiles out of different brown coloured pieces of card to decorate the roof.

And there you have it, your own Tudor house!

Investigating Inventories!



"Inventories are an amazing way to see what people owned in certain time periods! We can learn a lot about the differences in Tudor society from the items on people's inventories.

Tudor handwriting was pretty hard to read, so to help, the inventories have been reproduced. Can you translate the Tudor words from the image to work out what items Edward Smyth had in 1587?"

The inventory of Edward Smyth

V little brasse potts
hai
II mares and a stagge
III swine
the lease of the feild
fower kettles in the kitchenge
XXI calves
III chamber potts
Befe and bakon
IV buffett stules and a chare

The inventory of Edward Smyth

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Investigating Inventories!

Use the inventories below to answer the questions about Tudor society.

The inventory of Edward Smyth

5 little brasse potts
hai
2 mares and a stagge
3 swine
the lease of Haughton feild
fower kettles in the kitchenge
21 calves
3 chamber potts
Befe and bakon
4 buffett stules and a chare

The inventory of Mary Winnick

II bigge goblets, parcel gilt
XVII silver spones
II silked thromed hats
III gownes
XXX coins
Yardes of white for children's clothe
I lardg looking glass
I great cheste with locke and key
Item of French clothe
I pearle hat band

Which of the items tell you that Mary Winnick is quite rich or well off?

What do you think both of these people might have done for a living?

What differences can you see between the two inventories?

How do these compare to an inventory that might be made today?