

# WARWICK CASTLE



Key stage 3&4  
**Crime & Punishment**



**1421**

Earl of Warwick supervises trial of Joan of Arc

**1445**

Henry de Beauchamp becomes Duke of Warwick

**1449**

Richard Neville becomes Earl of Warwick

**1471**

Richard Neville (Kingmaker), dies at the Battle of Barnet

**1478**

George, Duke of Clarence imprisoned and killed

**1540**

Further development at the Castle - including a new roof for kitchens and building of the spy tower.



## The Earls of Warwick



De Newburgh



Duplessis



Maudult



De Beachamp



Neville



Plantagenet



Dudley



Rich



Greville

Teacher notes

# Crime and Punishment

This section focuses on law and order in mediaeval society. The main attractions to visit for this are the Castle Dungeon (please see the Teacher's Introduction to Warwick Castle for further information on this attraction) and the Gaol.

## PRE VISIT ACTIVITIES:

- Explore who held the power (i.e. the King, Church, local magnates) in mediaeval England. Pupils should be aware that these balances would change from region to region and over time.
- **Worksheet 1** contains some crimes and the punishments they carried. Ask pupils to rank the crimes and the punishments from the most severe to the least, then ask them to link the crime to the punishment.

### ANSWERS

#### Stocks/fines

Being drunk, petty theft, Sabbath breaking, fortune telling

#### Scolds Bridle

Nagging

#### Beheading/hanging

Murder, treason

- **Worksheet 2** contains some torture instruments and their uses. Pupils, in groups or as individuals, are to link the picture with the description.

**ADVISORY NOTE** this worksheet may not be suitable for younger pupils.

## DURING THE VISIT ACTIVITIES:

There are no worksheets for this section. This is because your pupils will be going through the Castle Dungeon or visiting the Gaol both of which are dark and small enclosed spaces.

Pupils can be encouraged to write brief notes on what they have experienced once outside of the areas, which can be used back in the classroom.

## Famous guests of the Warwick Castle Dungeon include:

Piers Gaveston, a close friend of King Edward II, was held at the Castle and condemned to death as an enemy of the King. He was executed, a mile from the Castle at Blacklow Hill. He was disliked by the nobles including Guy de Beauchamp, the Earl of Warwick, due to his close relationship with the King. It didn't help that Piers had nicknames for all the nobles including Warwick - 'the black hound of Arden'!

King Edward IV, during the Wars of the Roses, was held prisoner for a time at Warwick Castle. He was not imprisoned in the Gaol but in one of the towers, with comfort appropriate to his status.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT

The Gaol is a confined space that can be very busy in peak periods. Avoid the queues by visiting early in the day.

**Understanding the attractions:** The Castle Dungeon is a thrill and scare based attraction that may not be suitable for those of a nervous disposition. The attraction is not recommended for under 10s.

## POST VISIT ACTIVITIES:

- Role play a trial scene.
- **CREATIVE WRITING**  
**Job Vacancy: Mediaeval Torturer**  
Ask pupils to write a job advertisement of no more than 200 words, for a mediaeval torturer. It should include the employer's name, title and address, the main responsibilities of the job, what kind of personality might suit the role and any previous experience required.

# Crime and Punishment: Worksheet 1



Link the crimes to their punishment.

BEING DRUNK

NAGGING (A FEMALE CRIME)

TREASON

MURDER

SABBATH BREAKING

PETTY THEFT

FORTUNE TELLERS

## STOCKS

Stocks - were used for small scale law breaking as a way to humiliate the offender and highlight to everyone else the wrong doing.

## SCOLD'S BRIDE

Scold's Bridle - was a metal cage for the head with a built in gag to stop the person from talking

## BEHEADING

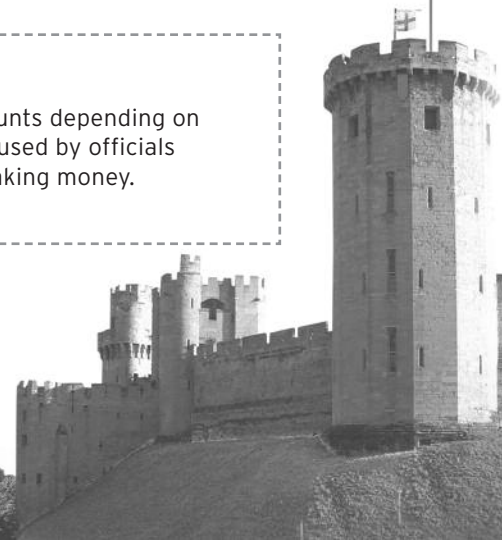
Beheading - executions were carried out in public and often watched by large crowds.

## HANGING

Hanging - executions were carried out in public often watched by large crowds.

## FINES

Fines - varied in amounts depending on the crime and where used by officials as an extra way of making money.

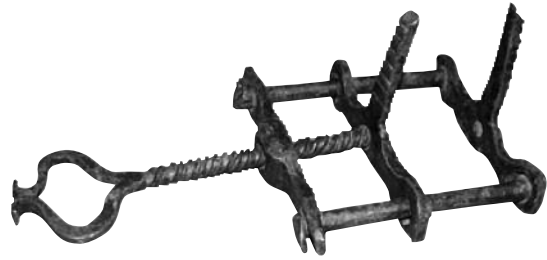




Link the torture instruments to the descriptions.

## THE HOOK

The fact that you could use this tool for lots of different things made it a torturer's favourite. Victims might simply be hung on it with wrists tied together or upside down by the ankles. It could also be used with its point placed at different parts of the body to cause varying degrees of pain - beneath the jaw or through the ribs. It was also ideal for gouging eyes, dragging out entrails, or simply raking the skin.



## THE TONGUE TEARER

Removal of all or part of the tongue has been a common form of torture or punishment since biblical times. This mediaeval instrument, sometimes with its jaws red hot, was used to pull the tongue as far forward as possible before cutting it off. The operation had varying degrees of success and a sharp knife was often needed as well. Splitting and piercing of the tongue were other versions of punishment.



## THE JAW BREAKER

This grisly device worked like a workshop vice or clamp. Its upright metal jaws were placed on either side of the victim's own jaw, and the screw turned to bring them together at a speed chosen by the torture. When the victim's jaw was particularly tough, a rod would be inserted through the loop in the screw to provide additional force.



## THE CLAW

Ripping, tearing and digging into flesh is one of the most basic forms of torture. This implement, also known as the ungula and the Spanish Spider, emulated the talons of raptors and the claws of bears and other wild creatures. Its main purpose was to inflict terrible wounds to the arms and legs.

