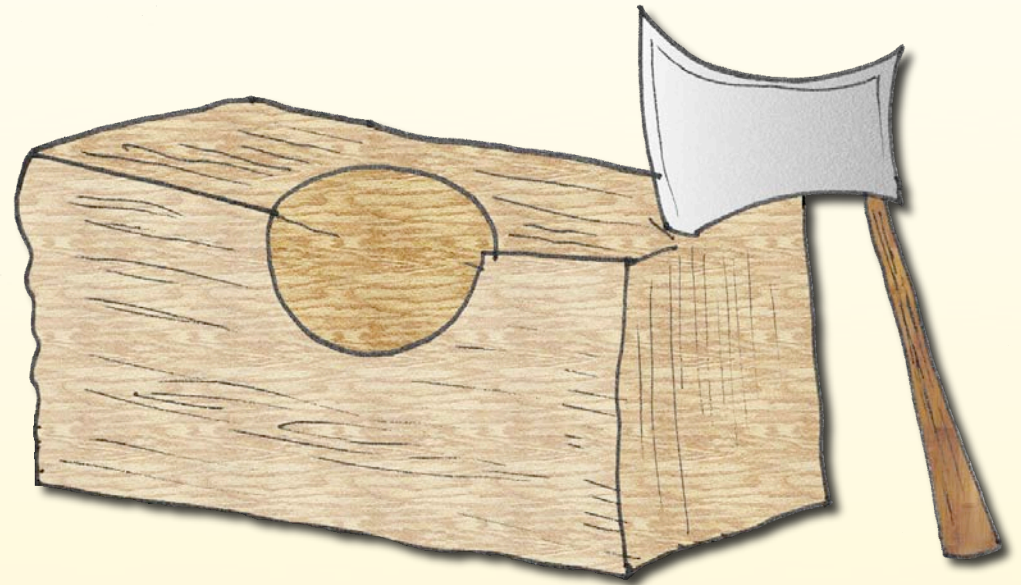


Tudor Crime and Punishment

Those who committed a crime during Tudor times were often given violent and cruel punishments. People thought that a harsh punishment would stop the criminal (and others) from repeating the crime.

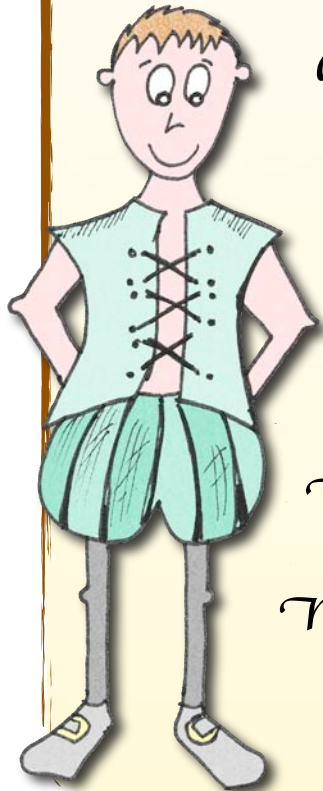
People would often go along to watch punishments take place. Hundreds of people might watch a criminal being punished, as they thought that it was an exciting day out!



Tudor Crime and Punishment

Crimes of the Rich and Poor

Crimes of royalty and wealthy Tudors included treason (plotting to do something horrible to the king or queen), blasphemy (insulting God), spying, murder and witchcraft.



Commoners often committed crimes because they were so poor and desperate. Some of the most common crimes included stealing, begging, murder, treason and fraud.

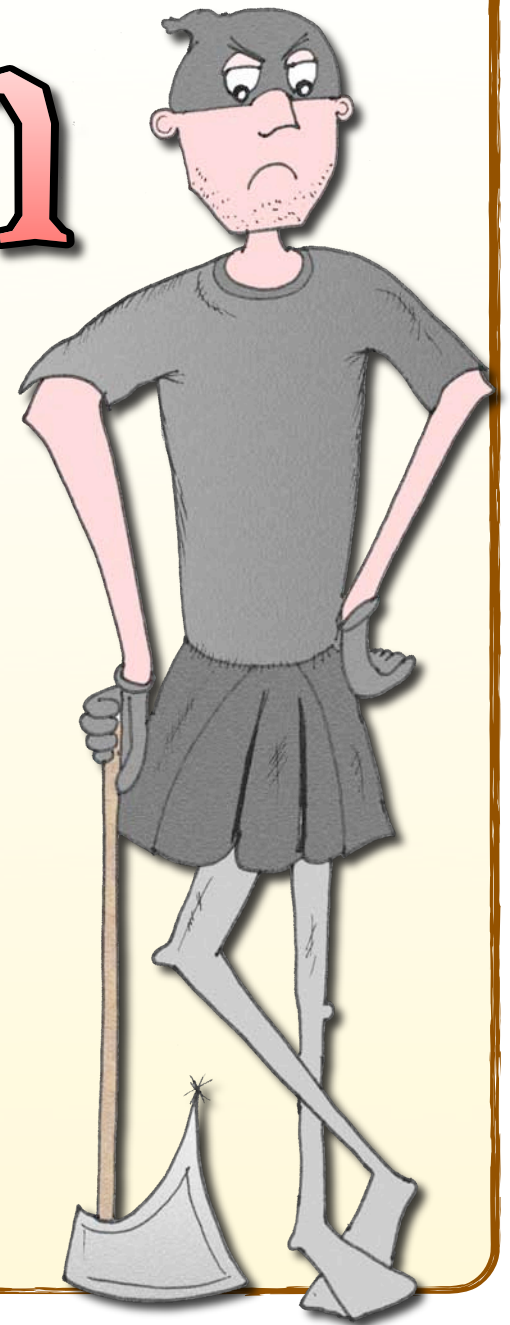


Tudor Crime and Punishment

Execution

Execution was when your punishment was to be killed! The Tudors executed people in lots of different ways, including:

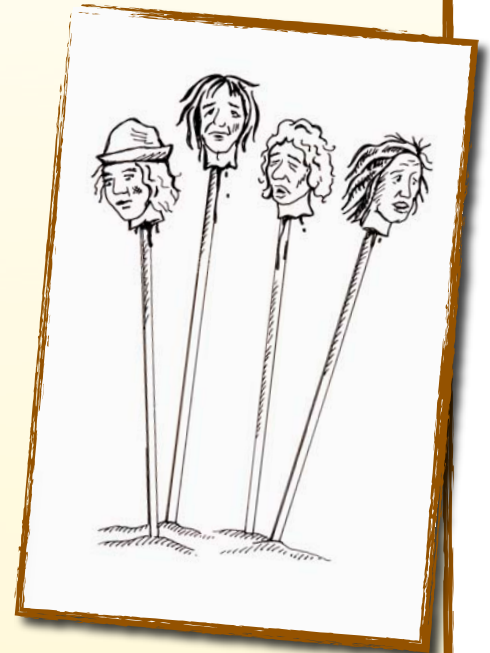
- ♦ Beheading
- ♦ Hanging
- ♦ Burning at the stake
- ♦ Being pressed (crushed with heavy stones)
- ♦ Being boiled alive
- ♦ Being starved



Beheading

Beheading means having your head chopped off! Criminals were locked in the Tower of London and forced to put their head on a block. The executioner then chopped it off with an axe. Sometimes the heads were put onto spikes along London Bridge.

Rich people who committed crimes were more likely to be beheaded than hung.



Hangings



Hangings was a common punishment for lots of different crimes. A noose (a piece of rope) was put around the criminal's neck, making it hard for them to breathe. They would hang there until they were dead.

People were hanged in the gallows. These were often in town squares so that others could watch!

Being Burnt at the Stake

Women found guilty of treason were burned at the stake. It was a horrible death. Tudor executioners sometimes put gunpowder at the bottom of the stake which caused a quicker and less painful death.

Sometimes the victims died of suffocation because of the smoke and lack of oxygen.



The Pillory and Stocks



Pillory

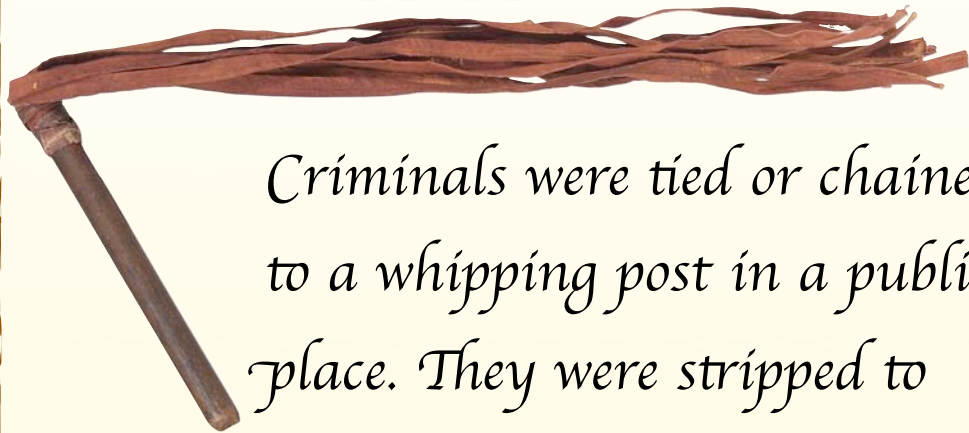
A person being punished might have been forced to put their head and hands through the holes of a pillory. They would stand in the middle of the market to be laughed at by others!

The feet of a criminal were sometimes locked through the holes of the stocks so that people could throw rotten food at them.



Stocks

Whipping and Branding



Criminals were tied or chained to a whipping post in a public place. They were stripped to the waist and whipped.

In school, rich children sometimes had their own 'whipping boy'. If the child was naughty, their whipping boy was whipped instead!

If you committed a crime, you might have letters burned onto the skin on your arm, hand or cheek with a hot iron.

Different letters were used to show the crime!



Tudor Crime and Punishment

Other Punishments

The Ducking Stool

If people thought that someone was a witch, they dunked them into a river. If they floated, they were guilty and then burnt at the stake. If they sank, they were innocent, but they died anyway.

Limbs severed

People caught stealing from shops had their hands cut off.



The Drunkard's Cloak

People found drunk in public were forced to wear a barrel and walk around town. It had holes cut out for the arms and head and it was very heavy!



The Brank

Women who gossiped had a large iron framework, like a cage, placed on their head. A metal strip on the brank fitted into the mouth and caused injuries if the woman spoke.