

Understanding Medieval Crime and Punishment


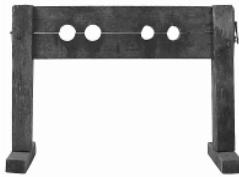

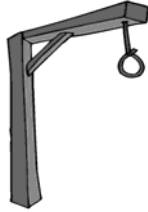
Answer the following questions

1. Punishments in the Middle Ages were very harsh True False

2. People found guilty of crimes were sent to gaol True False

3. Complete the following table using these words:

Adultery, Arson, Drunkenness, Forgery, Illegal hunting, Lying, Minor crimes, Mugging, Murder, Stealing, Swearing, Treason

Punishment	Crime	Punishment	Crime
Fine 		Shame 	
Mutilation 		Death 	

4. Who was in charge of the Manorial Court? _____

5. How many men were in a tithing? _____

6. How many men were in a jury? _____

7. Which court used Trial by Ordeal? _____

8. What were the three types of Trial by Ordeal? _____

9. Do you think the Manorial Court system was fair? Yes No

Give reasons for your answer _____

10. Do you think Trial by Ordeal was fair? Yes No

Give reasons for your answer _____

The Manorial Court – You Decide

You have been selected to be a member of the Manorial Court jury for the court session of 15th October 1211.

For the following cases decide whether you think the accused are guilty or not guilty and if guilty what their punishment should be. All of the accused are too poor to pay a fine.

Evidence	Guilty or Not Guilty	Punishment if Guilty
<p>Mathilda is accused of telling lies On 22nd September Mathilda did not help with the harvest because she said she was ill. Several villagers saw her outside her hut that day and she did not look ill. Peter says that Mathilda does not like hard work and lied to have a day off.</p>		
<p>Cedric is accused of stealing Walter's chicken On the morning of 4th October Walter found one of his chickens was missing. The same evening Cedric and his family had chicken for dinner. Two villagers saw Cedric outside on the night of 3rd October and he was not usually outside at night. Cedric says he found the chicken in the woods.</p>		
<p>Benedict is accused of drunkenness and swearing Several villagers say that on the night of 31st August Benedict was creating a fearful noise on the green. He is known to have visited the inn on that night where he drank vast quantities of ale. Mary and Eleanor say they were very afraid and shut themselves in their hut.</p>		
<p>John is accused of mugging On the evening of 11th October Alice was walking across the green when she was hit on the shoulder. She did not see her attacker but believes it was John because she would not dance with him at the Harvest dance. Three villagers say that John was cross because Alice would not dance with him. Two villagers say that John is a kind man and would not hurt anyone.</p>		
<p>Margaret is accused of arson On the morning of 30th August a fire was discovered at the back of Hugh's hut. Most villagers were helping with the harvest but Margaret was absent. Several villagers say that Margaret likes fire and often stares into the flames. Hugh and Margaret had had an argument the night before.</p>		