

Assessment Opportunity:

History:

- ☐ Understand and explain the life of poor children during Victorian Britain.
- ☐ Analyse the reliability of historical evidence.
- ☐ Understand and explain the political changes during Victorian Britain.

Lesson 8

History

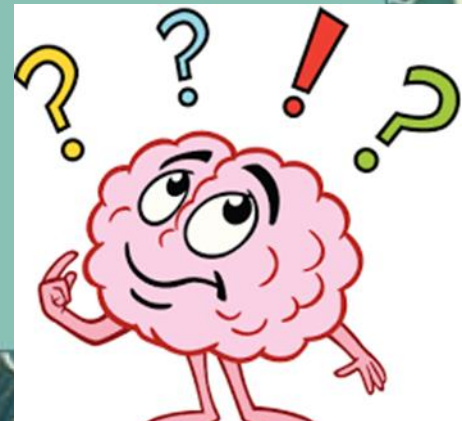


Learning to investigate whether
the crime and punishment of
specific Victorian children fit the
crime they committed.



Revisited Vocabulary

Crime Punishment Criminals



Crime

an act done by a person which is against the laws of a country or region.

Punishment

a a penalty for doing something wrong.

Criminals

A crime (or misdemeanor or felony) is an act done by a person which is against the laws of a country or region. A person who does this is called a criminal.

New Vocabulary

Reformatory schools

Reform

Pickpockets

Larceny

Conviction



Reformatory school

This was a penal institution, generally for teenagers mainly operating between 1830 and 1900.

Reform

the improvement of something by removing faults or problems

Pickpockets

A thief who steals from pockets and purses.



Larceny

The unlawful taking of personal property with intent to deprive the rightful owner of it permanently.

Conviction

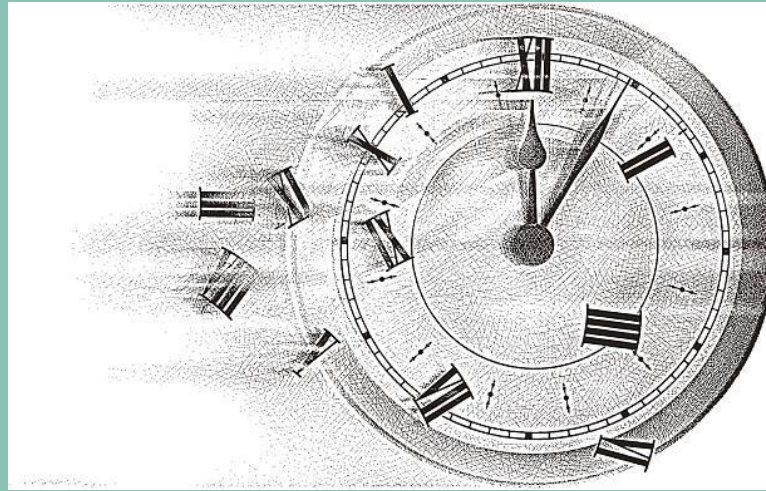
The act or process of finding a person guilty of a crime.

Prior Knowledge Check: Do it now!

Who is best known for their work during the Crimean War? What can you remember about this philanthropist?



Today we are travelling back in time to the year...



1851

1851

The Great Exhibition opens!

The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations, also known as the Great Exhibition or the Crystal Palace Exhibition (in reference to the temporary structure in which it was held), was an international exhibition which took place in Hyde Park, London, from 1 May to 15 October, 1851. It was the first in a series of World's Fairs, exhibitions of culture and industry that became popular in the 19th century. The event was organised by Henry Cole and Prince Albert, husband of Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom.

1853

The Crimean War began.

The Crimean War was fought between 1853 and 1856. It was fought in the Crimea, an area in the south of Russia at the time (now part of Ukraine). On one side were Britain, France, and Turkey, and on the other side was Russia.

The nurse **Florence Nightingale** went to the Crimea to take care of the soldiers. She introduced modern nursing practices and saved many lives. Another woman who went to the Crimea to help the soldiers was **Mary Seacole**.

1856

The Metropolitan Police Act

The Act made it compulsory for a police force to be established in any county which had not previously formed a constabulary. Previously, volunteers called the 'Bow Street Runners' were responsible for preventing crime and apprehending criminals, who were then taken before a judge.



The Metropolitan Police Act

The Victorians were very worried about crime and its causes. Reformers were asking questions about how young people who had broken the law ought to be treated. They could see that locking children up with adult criminals was hardly likely to make them lead honest lives in the future. On the other hand, they believed firmly in stiff punishments.





In 1854 Reformatory Schools were set up for offenders under 16 years old. These were very tough places, with stiff discipline enforced by frequent beatings. Young people were sent there for long sentences – usually several years. However, a young offender normally still began their sentence with a brief spell in an adult prison. Use the sources in this lesson to find out how children were treated by the justice system.

1/4 Name No Joseph Lewis 5248 26 April 73
 and Aliases. _____

Description {
 Age (on discharge) 11
 Height 4ft 6 3/4
 Hair Lt Brown
 Eyes Dk Grey
 Complexion Fresh
 Where born England
 Married or Single Single
 Trade or occupation None
 Distinguishing marks Pockmarked Scar right wrist



Address at time of apprehension 32 Princess St Rotherhithe

Place and date of conviction Greenwich 10 April 73

Offence for which convicted Simple Larceny of 28lb of Iron

Sentence 1 Cal Mo 11th St 28 lb of Iron = 3/-

Date to be liberated 9 May 1873

Intended residence after liberation Same

Previous Convictions {
 Summary
 By Jury

Remarks, antecedents &c.

SOURCE

1

Transcript

Name No – Joseph Lewis 5248

and Aliases. _____

Description

Age (on discharge) _____ 11

Height _____ 4ft 6 3/4

Hair _____ Lt Brown

Eyes _____ Dk Grey

Complexion _____ Fresh

Where Born _____ England

Married or Single _____ Single

Trade or occupation _____ None

Distinguishing marks _____ Pockmarked Scar right wrist

Address at time of apprehension – 32 Princess St Rotherhithe

Place and date of conviction – Greenwich 10 April 73

Offence for which convicted – Simple Larceny for st[ealin]g 28lb of Iron
 = 3/-

Sentence – 1 Cal[endar] Mo[nth] H[ard] L[abour]

Date to be liberated – 9 May 1873

Intended residence after liberation – Same Previous

Convictions:

Summary

By Jury

Remarks antecedents &c

SOURCE 1

Look at Source 1. Read through the document to make sure you understand what it is telling you.

- 1) How old was Joseph?
- 2) What offence had he committed?
- 3) What was his sentence?
- 4) Why do you think a photograph and description of this boy was included in his record?
- 5) Why do you think he committed this crime?

323
4 Name No. John Greening 5997 July 73
and Aliases _____

Description

Age (on discharge) _____ 11
Height _____ 4ft 4 1/4
Hair _____ Lt Brown
Eyes _____ D Grey
Complexion _____ Fresh
Where born _____ Mortlake
Married or single _____ Single
Trade or occupation _____ None
Distinguishing marks _____ Scar on forehead

Address at time of apprehension _____ 1 Senior Place, Mortlake

Place and date of conviction _____ Richmond 10 June 73

Offence for which convicted _____ Stg a Q of Goosberries (growing)

Sentence _____ 1 Cal. Mth. H. 5 years Ref[ormitory]

Date to be liberated _____ 17 July 73

Intended residence after liberation _____ Boleyn Castle, East Ham, Essex

Summary

11 March 71 - Stg some coal J.O.A. 10 Days H[ard] L[abour] or 10/- Richmond

15 Feb 73 Stg coal
Stg coal
2 Cal. Mth. H. 5 Whipped Richmond

By Jury

Remarks, antecedents &c.
Rab. sent 5 April 73



Transcript

Name No – John Greening 5997
and Aliases _____

Description:

Age (on discharge) _____ 11
Height _____ 4ft 4 1/4
Hair _____ Lt Brown
Eyes _____ D Grey
Complexion _____ Fresh
Where Born _____ Mortlake
Married or Single _____ Single
Trade or occupation _____ None
Distinguishing marks – Scar on forehead

Address at time of apprehension – 1 Senior Place, Mortlake

Place and date of conviction – Richmond 10 June 73

Offence for which convicted – St[ealin]g a Q[uar]t[er] of Goosberries (growing)

Sentence – 1 Cal[endar] M[on]th H[ard] L[abour] & 5 years Ref[ormitory]

Date to be liberated – 17 Jult 73

Indended residence after liberation – Boleyn Castle, East Ham, Essex

Previous Convictions: Summary 11 March 71 – St[ealin]g coal J.O.A. 10 Days

H[ard] L[abour] or 10/- Richmond 1

5 Feb 73 St[ealin]g coal

St[ealin]g coal

2 cal[endar] mo[nth]s H[ard] L[abour] & whipped Richmond

By Jury

Remarks, antecedents &c

Rab. sent 5-April 73

SOURCE 2

SOURCE 2

2. Look at Source 2. Read through the document and compare it with the one shown in Source 1.

- 1) How old was John?
- 2) What offence had he committed?
- 3) What was his sentence?
- 4) Why do you think he committed this crime?
- 5) Why do you think his sentence is so harsh?

There are two parts to John's sentence. What do you think the Victorians thought was the point of:

- Sending the offender to prison?
- Sending the offender to the Reformatory?

SOURCE 3

No.	NAME.	Age.	Crime.	Convicted.		Sentenced.	Married or Single.	Read or Write.	Trade.	Gaoler's Report.	Character on board the Hulk.
				Where:	When.						
3997	Henry Boleam	15	Steal a pair of boots	Worcester	30 Dec 1839	7 yrs	-	R	-	Commenced to serve Whiff: a common thief	Good
4020	James Campbell	14	Theft	Glasgow	9 Sept 1840	7	-	R	-	Often convicted. Bad character	In
4124	Henry Johnston	15	Larceny of gun case	Cont last Ct	1 Feb. 1841	10	-	R	-	Before convicted	D
4127	Frederick Schneider	15	Larceny	Cont last Ct	1 Feb. 1841	7	-	R	-	2 Not 1/2 sacks H ^c C ^c	Good
4128	Richard Taylor	15	Larceny by a boat	Cont last Ct	1 Feb. 1841	7	-	R	-	Not known	D
4166	Thos Garrett	14	Larceny by a boat	Cont last Ct	1 Mar. 1841	7	-	R	-	D	D
4167	George Hambley	16	Larceny	C. C. Ct	1 Mar 1841	7	-	R	-	D	Indiff
4185	John Killesley	15	Stealing a coat	Kingston on Thames	29 Oct 1841	7	-	R	-	In prison before.	Good
4191	Job Parkinson	13	Larceny	Grantham	2 April 1841	7	-	R	-	Bad char ^t convicted from last boat.	D
4217	William Shaw	16	Larceny	Cont last Ct	10 May 1841	7	-	R	-	3 Months H ^c C ^c	In
4218	Richard Pinnuck	15	Robbed & Larceny	C. C. Ct	10 May 1841	10	-	R	-	Not known	Good
4220	Henry Hooper	14	Larceny	C. C. Ct	10 May 1841	7	-	R	-	D	In
4221	Josh Wood	15	Larceny from a coat	C. C. Ct	10 May 1841	7	-	R	-	Before convicted	In
4222	James Serrone	13	Larceny	C. C. Ct	10 May 1841	7	-	R	-	Not known	In
4223	Joseph Williamson	14	Larceny for prison	C. C. Ct	10 May 1841	10	-	R	-	A M ^c H ^c C ^c	In
4224	Thomas Harper	15	Larceny of gun case	C. C. Ct	10 May 1841	7	-	R	-	Before conv ^t H ^c C ^c often	Bad
4225	William Jones	14	Larceny	C. C. Ct	10 May 1841	7	-	R	-	Prison 21 days	Bad
4226	Nathan Hunt	15	Steal a watch & pen	Pontefract	5 April 1841	7	-	R	-	Character very bad. 11 times in prison.	Indif
4229	John Linsley	15	Steal a pair of boots	Kingston on Thames	5 April 1841	7	-	R	-	Bad char ^t . very dishonest	Good
4231	George Clubber	14	Steal a bag 2 Indiff 3 7 yrs and 3	New Larceny	11 Feb 1841	13 1/2	-	R	-	2 nd conv ^t very bad character.	D
4235	Levie Robertson	14	Theft	Aberdeen	21 April 1841	7	-	R	-	Conv ^t before. May has character	Ind.
4236	William Brown	14	Theft	Aberdeen	23 May	7	-	R	-	Bad character. quite dishonest	In
4237	Robert Mc Donnell	13	D	D	23 May	7	-	R	-	D. D. dishonest	Good

Transcript

No.	Name	Age	Crime	Convicted Where	Convicted When	Sentence	Married or Single	Read or Write	Trade	Gaoler's Report	Character on board the hulk
3997	Henry Boleam	15	Steal[ing] a peice of Velveteen	Worcester	30 Dec 1839	7 yrs	-	R	-	Convicted & twice Whipp[ed] a common thief	Good
4020	James Campbell	14	Theft	Glasgow	9 Sept 1840	7 "	-	R	-	Often Convicted. Bad Character	In

SOURCE 3

Look at Source 3. Another form of Victorian punishment was transportation to a penal colony in a different country.

- 1) What is the average age of these convicts who are being transported?
- 2) What are the crimes that most of them have been convicted of?
(Hint: Larceny means theft)
- 3) How long is the average sentence?
- 4) Do you think they were allowed to come home at the end of their sentence?

SOURCE 3

Which of the following words do you think describes conditions at the penal colony? Explain why

- hard
- easy
- frightening
- simple
- tough
- boring
- interesting

Why do you think these children committed these crimes?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Punishment of crime has a number of aims:

- punish the offender
- reform the offender so they won't do it again
- deter others from committing crimes
- protect the public

Which of these aims were being met by these sentences on Victorian young offenders?

CHALLENGE

What would happen to Joseph Lewis and John Greening if they committed the same crimes today?

What sentences would you pass on Joseph Lewis and John Greening? What are the reasons for your decision?

What have we learned today?

Using these sentence starters, discuss what you know now that you didn't do before this lesson. We will share our opinions with the rest of the class. Be prepared to speak.

In my opinion, the punishment of these children did / did not fit the crime because...

When analysing evidence it is important to remember that...
(Hint: think about bias and reliability of evidence)