

Read the following tales carefully. They each summarise the fate of a person or group in the Tudor period. Use two highlighters to identify **types of crime** and **types of punishment**.

The Carthusian monks, executed 1535



- They were an order of monks living in London.
- In 1534 Henry VIII got Parliament to pass the Act of Supremacy, making him Supreme Head of the Church of England and abolishing the Pope's authority in England. Anyone in public office or with a job in the Church had to swear the 'Oath of Supremacy' which said they recognised Henry VIII as head of the Church.
- The Carthusian monks refused to swear the oath, which was an act of treason. They were hanged, drawn and quartered in public.

Margaret Pole, executed 1541



- She was a Countess, a well-respected noblewoman, and 70 years old in 1541.
- She embarrassed Henry VIII by supporting his first wife Catherine of Aragon after their divorce and by sticking to the traditional Catholic practices.
- She had several sons, one of whom openly defied Henry and then fled abroad. As Henry could not arrest her son, he had Margaret arrested instead.
- She refused to put her head on the block because she had committed no crime. Her executioner was young and inexperienced. One witness said he 'literally hacked her head and shoulders to pieces in the most pitiful manner'.

Thomas Cranmer, executed 1555



- A committed Protestant, he was the driving force behind the English Reformation. He was Archbishop of Canterbury under Henry VIII and Edward VI.
- Cranmer was involved in a plot to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne instead of Edward's Catholic half-sister Mary. When Mary became queen anyway, Cranmer was arrested, put on trial and sentenced to death.
- Mary offered to commute (reduce) Cranmer's sentence if he recanted (made a public statement rejecting the Protestant faith and encouraging everyone to become Catholic). He signed the document.
- Mary went back on her word and Cranmer was burned at the stake for treason and heresy. He put his right hand into the flames first because it had signed the recantation.
- Nearly three hundred other Protestants were burned at the stake for heresy during Mary's reign. Some were high-profile like Cranmer, others very poor.

Margaret Clitherow, executed 1586



- When Elizabeth I became queen, she hoped Catholicism would slowly die out if she didn't treat Catholics too harshly and create martyrs, as Mary had done with Protestants.
- She realised she could not force people to change their minds ('I have no desire to make windows into men's souls') but she expected outward conformity.
- This involved attending Protestant church services on a weekly basis. Those Catholics who refused to go were called recusants and were fined.
- Margaret was a recusant, but she had also been sheltering priests. She was arrested for this but refused to stand trial, because she feared that her children would be called as witnesses and subjected to torture.
- As a result she was crushed to death with weights placed on her own front door.

Questions

1. What *new* types of crime can you identify?
2. What different methods of execution can you find?
3. How did the nature of treason change under the Tudors?

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