

How did Highway men terrorise Britain's roads?

LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities



LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

Learning outcomes

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6

LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6

Who was Dick Turpin

Richard 'Dick' Turpin was born around 1705 in Essex

He started his working life as a butcher like his father but soon became a deer thief

He then committed more crimes including poaching, burglary, horse theft and murder.

LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6

Turpin's gangs

The Essex Gang

Turpin joined this gang of deer thieves in the 1730s.

As part of the gang he may have been involved in robbing people in their homes and threatening them with violence

Contemporary cartoon of the Essex gang threatening Widow Shelley with being put on the fire if she didn't tell the gang where her money was



LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6

Highway robber

When the Essex Gang broke up Turpin turned to highway robbery.

He and his accomplices often attacked travellers in Epping Forest.



Soon he was supposedly working with two other highwaymen, Matthew King and Stephen Potter. The three of them were responsible for a string of robberies between March and April 1737

LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6

Murderer



King is the first person
Turpin was rumoured to
kill but this was
probably an accident

Turpin's next murder we
can be more certain of.

While hiding in Epping
forest he shot and killed
Thomas Morris, a
servant of one of the
Forest's Keepers who
had seen him hiding

LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6



Trial

Turpin was put on trial in 1739 for his crimes.

On 22 March 1739 Turpin was found guilty on two charges of horse theft and sentenced to death. He was executed (by being hanged) on 7 April 1739.



LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6

How did he become so famous

100 years after he had died an author called William Harrison Ainsworth wrote a story which included a fictional 200-mile overnight ride from London to York on his horse Black Bess.



LO: to examine how and why criminals like Dick Turpin became celebrities

All will be able to describe what a highway man was L4

Most will be able to identify famous highway men and their crimes L5

Some will be able to analyse why highway became popular figures L6

Questions

1. What is the highwayman's name?
2. Did they work on their own?
3. Where did they commit their crimes?
4. What crimes did they commit?
5. How were they caught?
6. What punishments did they receive?
7. Why do you think they became famous?