

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you match each of these criminals with the correct description of their crime?



Poacher

Someone who imports goods into the country without paying taxes on them.

Highwayman

Someone who hunts or steals animals from someone else's land.

Smuggler

Someone who holds people up on a road, usually at gunpoint, in order to rob them.



Now answer these questions about crime in the early modern period using as much detail as you can.

1. Why did poaching become more common?

2. Why did highway robbery become more common?

3. Why did smuggling become more common?

4. Why was there so much crime around religion at this time?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you define each of these types of criminal and why each type of crime became more common in the early modern period?



Criminal	Definition	Why the crime became more common
Poacher		
Highwayman		
Smuggler		



Now answer these questions about crime in the early modern period using as much detail as you can.

1. Do you think the rich deserved to be robbed? Explain your answer.

2. What do you think was responsible for the rise in these new types of crimes? Explain your answer.



## Crime and Punishment in the Early Modern Period

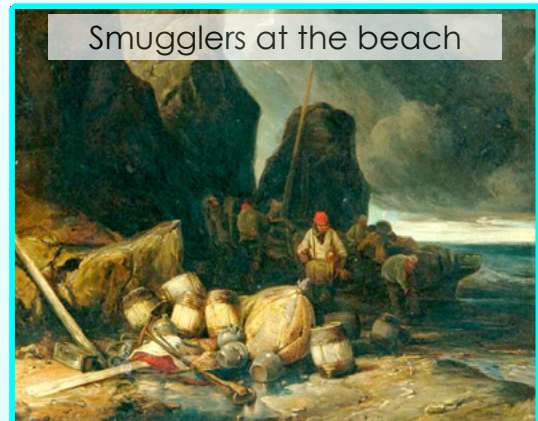


A country estate

In the early modern period (1600-1800), England became a richer country, mainly based on the wealth it gained from the slave trade. Some people became very well off indeed, as you can tell from the fine houses and parks they built, which you can still see in our towns and countryside today.

Most of the medieval forests were enclosed as huge parks attached to country houses. The common people who were living there were evicted, sometimes even whole villages were abandoned. This forced more people to go and live in towns, which were becoming more and more crowded. Anyone caught sneaking into these new parks to get food was punished as a poacher.

As well as restricting where people could live and work, governments tried to restrict trade and promote British products. However, they also wanted to raise money from imports. In order to do this, they raised the taxes for bringing goods into the country. This meant that smuggling became more common as it was more profitable to sneak goods into the country than it was to declare them and pay hefty taxes.



Smugglers at the beach

The rich people of the time carried their wealth around with them as there were very few banks during this period. This made them easy targets when they were travelling on unguarded roads. Because the country as a whole was getting richer, poorer people could afford horses and it was easy to set up a profitable, but risky, business as a highwayman. This involved holding people up, often at gunpoint, and demanding they hand over their money, jewels and any other riches.



A plaque commemorating women executed for witchcraft

There was a lot of religious conflict too. Not only were Catholics feared by the mainly Protestant population and accused of rebellion and treason, but various different types of Protestants were also in conflict. Puritans believed in witches and increasing suspicion between people in a growing population meant many women were accused of witchcraft and burned at the stake. Women at the time would mix herbs and potions as medicine to help heal and look after their families. This was often mistaken for mixing magic potions to cast spells.

**Witch**



**Highwayman**



**Smuggler**



**Poacher**



**Traitor**



Rising wealth	Private landowners
Jealousy	Government policy
Poverty	Religion
Rising population	Opportunity
Rising wealth	Private landowners
Jealousy	Government policy
Poverty	Religion
Rising population	Opportunity
Rising wealth	Private landowners
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