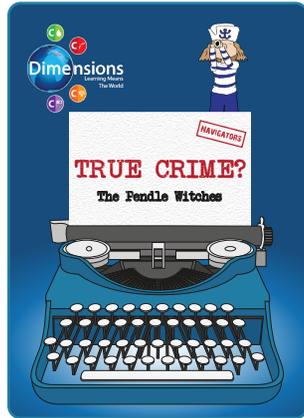


TRUE CRIME?

The Pendle Witches

What
I
Should
Know

Dimensions
CURRICULUM



Overview

True Crime? The Pendle Witches is a history-based theme that develops skills in selecting, organising and understanding relevant historical information through an investigative approach. Pupils will learn about the importance of good evidence when investigating a historical event and use their skills in reading, interpreting and discussing evidence to put forward a verdict based on what we know today.

16th & 17th Century Lancashire

In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, **Lancashire** was regarded as a wild and lawless area. It was a 'dark corner of the land'. Many villages were very remote and there were few large towns.

It was 240 miles away from London and it was difficult to keep control over people from so far away. Lancashire was known as being a violent place where many people were poor and did not attend church regularly.

The Church was a very important part of everyone's lives during this time. It was illegal not to attend church! You were not allowed to be a Catholic at this time. If you were caught attending Catholic Mass, you could be tried for 'heresy' and executed.

Heresy is a belief or practice that goes against the established or state beliefs or customs. It is most often linked to religion and important religious teachings. **Witchcraft** was considered as heretical because it was a way of making things happen or causing harm through beliefs and practices that went against both forms of Christianity.

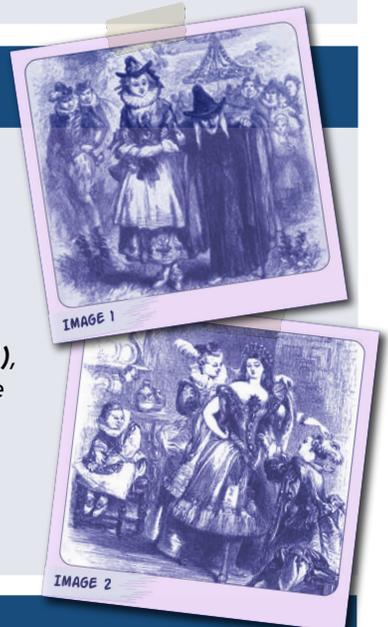
The Accused

There were many more people accused of witchcraft at Pendle, but there is more information on the following six than any others:-

- Anne Whittle (alias Mother Chattox)
- Anne Redfearne
- Elizabeth Southernns (alias Old Demdike)
- Elizabeth Device (alias Squintin' Lizzie)
- Alizon Device
- James Device

Illustrations of Anne Redfearne and Mother Chattox (**Image 1**), and Alizon Device (**Image 2**).

James Device was not the only man accused and sent to trial in 1612, but he was the only one to give a confession.



What is evidence?

Evidence is objects or documents that help to prove whether something is true or not. In history, sources are used to find evidence of events and historical figures.

Good evidence is reliable. It is supported by other pieces of evidence.

Bad evidence is unreliable. Gossip or hearsay is an example of bad evidence.

A primary source is an original object or document from the time period.

A secondary source is produced after the historical event has occurred. E.g. biographies and documentaries.

TRUE CRIME?

The Pendle Witches

Key Events

21st March 1612 Alizon Device is accused of bewitching John Law	30th March 1612 Alizon, Elizabeth and James Device, summoned to Pendle	2nd April 1612 Demdike, Chattox and Redfearne summoned to Pendle	10th April 1612 Meeting at Malkin Tower	27th April 1612 Inquiry into the meeting at Malkin Tower	27th July 1612 Jennet Preston trial and sentencing in York	18-19th August 1612 Lancaster trials begin
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Vocabulary

Accusation	A statement that another person is guilty of a crime or error	Familiar	An animal-shaped spirit believed to serve a witch
Case file	A file kept on a person involved in a legal investigation	Gaol and gaoler	An old-fashioned term for jail and jailer
Catholicism	The faith, practice, and church order of the Catholic Church	Lame	To be unable to walk or move without difficulty
Confession	The act of confessing or admitting	Magistrate	A law officer who can administer the law in court
Cunning Woman	Another name for a healer or someone who practised folk medicine	Protestantism	The faith, practice, and church order of the Protestant Churches
Evidence	Something which shows that something else exists or is true	Source	An object, person, book, etc., that gives information

Knowledge and Understanding

- To know about some aspects of life in Lancashire in the early 1600s
- To know about the accusations of witchcraft
- To know what evidence is and analyse initial evidence for the Pendle Witch trials
- To know the order of events leading to the Pendle Witches' arrest
- To analyse further evidence in the form of confessions
- To know and understand the role Jennet Device played in convicting the witches
- To know that persecution based on religion and beliefs still occurs today

My Questions

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My Notes

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