

Early Modern Period

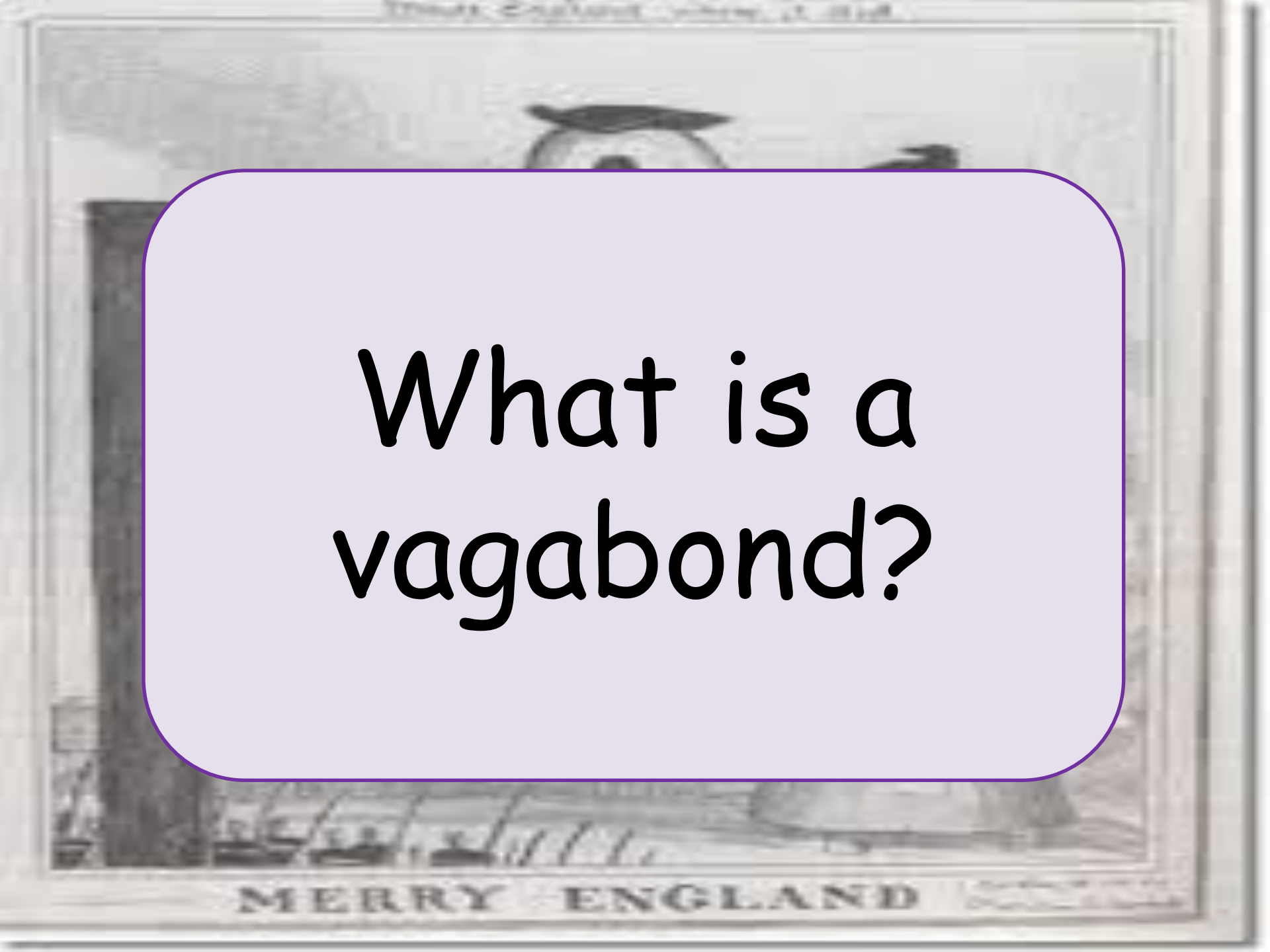
1500 - 1750

Big changes!

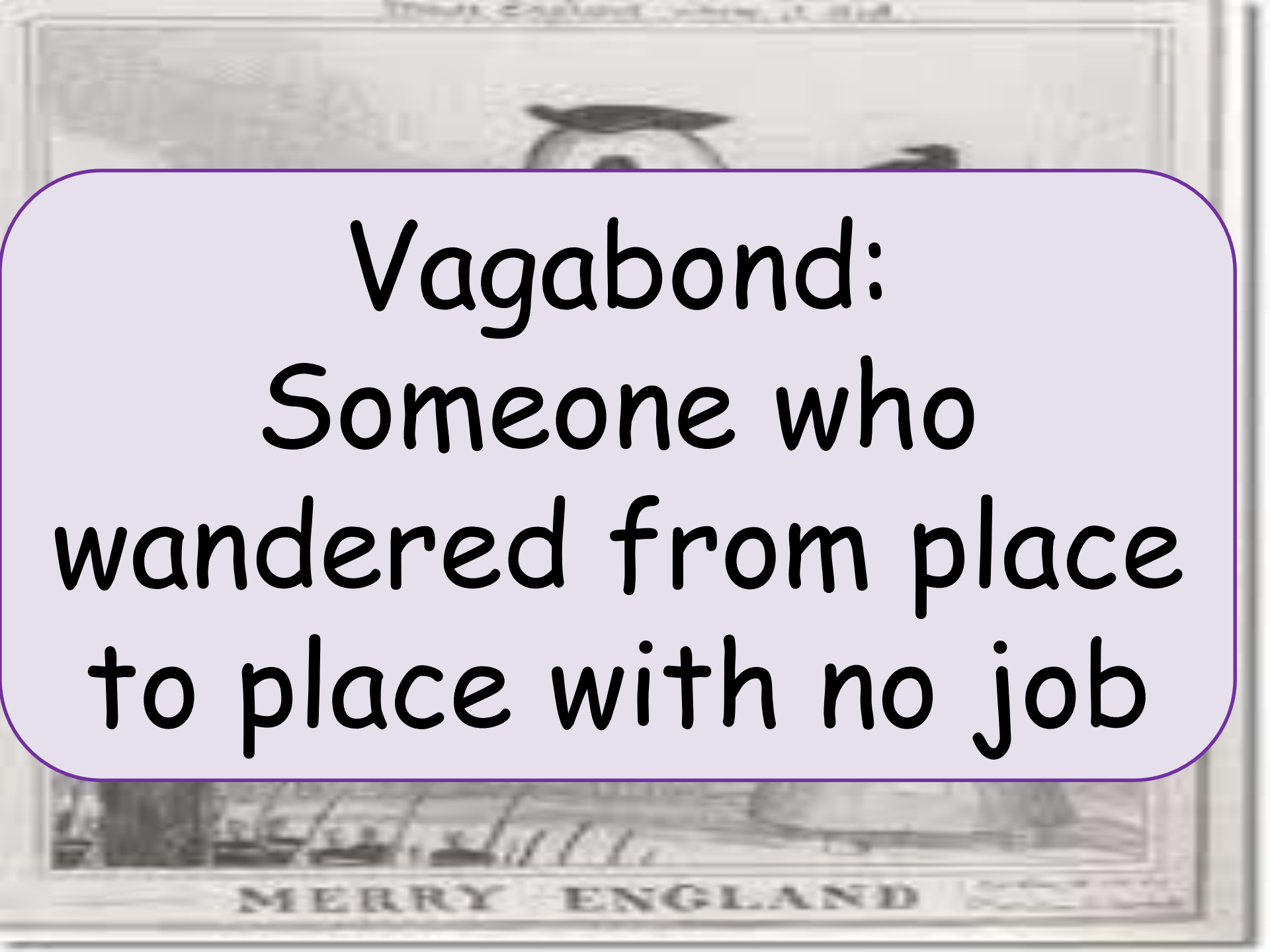
Population growth
Growing towns/cities
Increased travel
Break with Rome
Printing press
English Civil War
Puritans in power

Crimes which caused concern in the EMP:

- Vagrancy
- Moral crimes
- Witchcraft
- Heresy
- Smuggling
- Highway robbery



What is a
vagabond?



Vagabond:
Someone who
wandered from place
to place with no job

A rogue

The upright man

Clapper Dudgeons

Bawdy Baskets

What were these?

Counterfeit crank

The Abraham man

The upright man

The doxy

People disliked vagabonds because:

- Travelled in groups and often committed crime/blamed for crime
- People did not like having to pay for them to be looked after - feared the cost
- Puritans believed 'idle hands make the Devil's work' = laziness is sinful

How were vagabonds treated?

1531 - whipped

1547 - 1st offence slavery 2nd execution

1550 - 1547 too severe, 1531 revived

1572 - 1st whipping and ear cut off, Second offence - execution

1593 - 1572 Act repealed too, 1531 - revived

1598 - Vagrants whipped and sent home, if continued HOC, execution or banishment.

Who were the Puritans?

What period did they have
influence over laws?

What practices did they make
crimes?

Very religious people - wanted everyone to live strictly according to the bible. They wanted to improve behaviour to prevent people going to hell.

By the 1640s-1650s - they controlled Parliament

During this time they changed laws so people would live a strict Puritan lifestyle.... They decided to ban:

Christmas
Adultery
Sports and games on Sunday
Football
Drunkenness
Swearing
Betting and music in taverns

1645: The year of the

W _____ F _____ G _____

Who was the Witchfinder General?

What kinds of people were accused of being witches?

How would you spot a witch?

How do you put a witch on trial?

Matthew Hopkins

Usually older women

Devil's marks, familiar, witch
prick

Swimming test

Why did
people **believe**
in witches?

Economics

Rising prices on food and other economic changes such as enclosure made people want to blame someone for the hard times. Furthermore, if a person was convicted of witchcraft their property would be confiscated. Thus, people accused others through greed.

Civil War

The civil war set neighbour against neighbour. People had old grievances and didn't trust each other. If they disliked someone, they could easily get rid of them by accusing them of witchcraft.

Religion

Everyone believed in the Devil and Hell. If things went wrong people would accuse witches of doing the Devil's work. Anyone involved in any rituals would be accused of witchcraft.

Superstition

Linked to religion but slightly different. People believed in magic, were very superstitious, and were afraid of anything that was strange to them. They believed completely in the idea of witchcraft.

Lack of Scientific Understanding

It had not yet been discovered how different weather could occur, or how climate could affect crops. People had little understanding of illnesses. Because these things could not yet be explained, witches were blamed for any misfortune that occurred.

Heresy and Heretics

What is a heretic?

What was the punishment for being a heretic? Why?

Which monarch is most famous for punishing heretics?

Heresy and Heretics

Beliefs which are against the church
(going against the religion of the monarch)

Burning alive = to symbolise the flames
and to ensure your soul is destroyed

Mary I (Bloody Mary) - Catholic monarch
burned nearly 300 protestants

Who are these men?

Claude Duval

Dick Turpin

James Hind

Highwaymen

Image

Reality

Romantic
Gentlemen of the
road
Well dressed
Polite
Suave
Rarely used
force

Violent
Cruel
Greedy
Murderers
Feared

e.g. cut out
tongue

Why did highway robbery grow and then decline?

Increase	Decreased
Travel by carriage No banks Open/remote roads Flintlock pistol	Banks Rewards for handing highwaymen in Mounted patrols Busier roads

Enforcing the law

Policing methods remained very similar. E.g. hue and cry and JPs
However, sheriff becomes less important.

More watchmen employed in towns.

How effective was law enforcement?

There was no official police force.

1. Many people didn't want a police force as they thought this would **end their freedom** to criticise the government.
2. Others thought it would **cost** them too much.
3. Other people thought that a police force **wasn't needed** and that making punishments harsher would work.

Enforcing the law - courts

Assizes → Serious offences heard
Country divided into 6 circuits

Quarter sessions → 4 times a year - JPs - less serious

Petty sessions → JPs had too much to do so petty sessions set up. Replaced Manor courts - local/minor crimes

Manor courts → Local/minor - lost influence in 17thC

Church courts → Active in 1500/1600s - moral crimes

How were women treated?

They were treated more harshly.

Men expected women to be respectable and subservient/obedient

When a husband and wife were accused of drunkenness only the woman was punished in the stocks.

Women were more likely to be punished for adultery.

Women who argued in public were punished by the ducking stool.

Women convicted of murdering their husbands were burnt to death.

How were women treated?

Women were not allowed to be:

JPs, constables, court clerks or part of the jury

But women were allowed to:

give evidence in a court as a witness or bring cases to court as the victim of crime

Punishment

Most common punishment = fines

Other punishments aimed to
shame and humiliation or to
cause physical pain as a
deterrent.

Punishment

New to Early Modern Period or old?

Pillory

Prison

Stocks

Whipping

Carting

Transportation

Bridewell

Fines

Ducking Stool

Punishment

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Ducking Stool

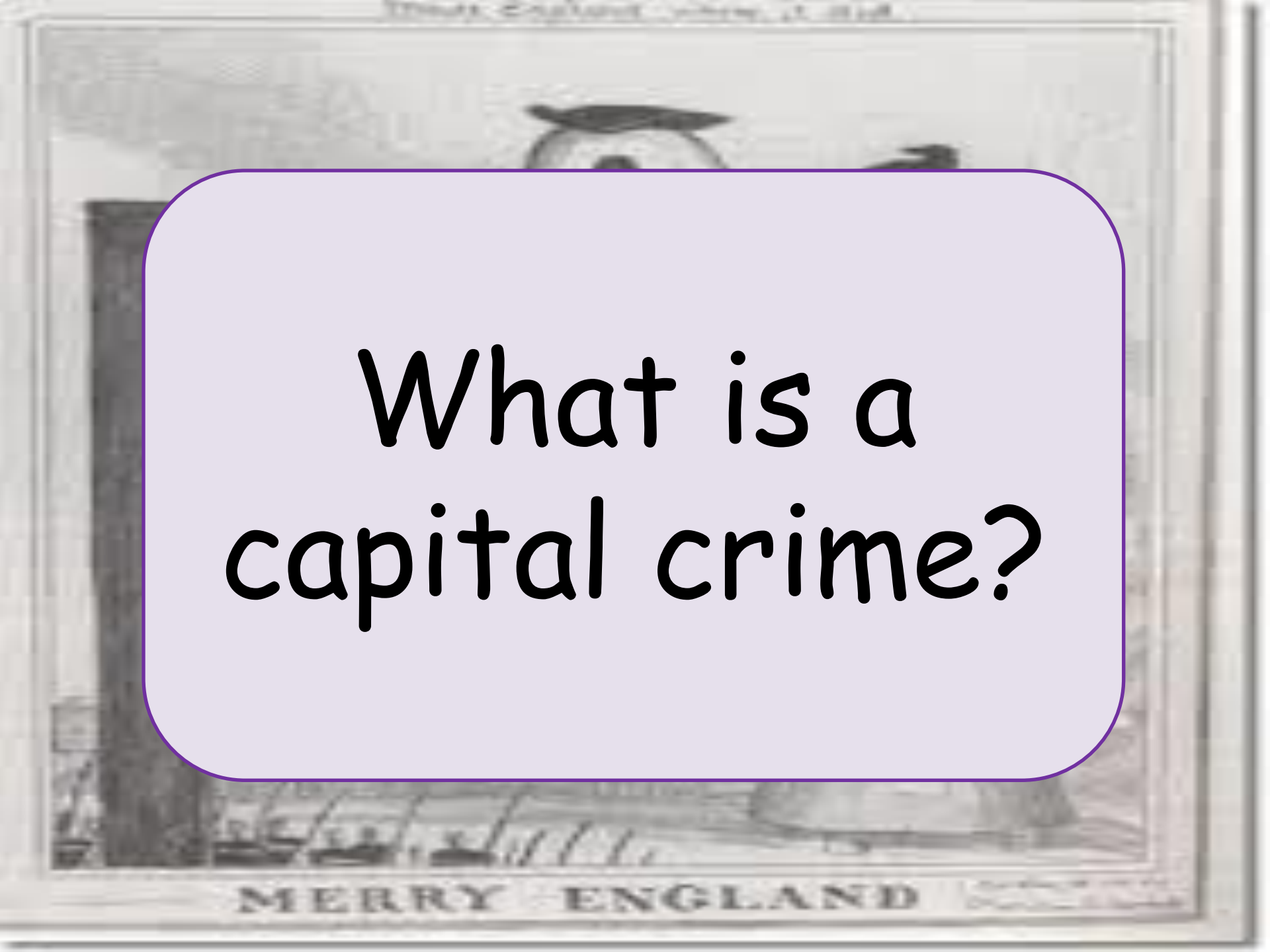
Bridewells

Punish and reform offenders

Places for vagrants, unmarried mothers, runaways apprentices

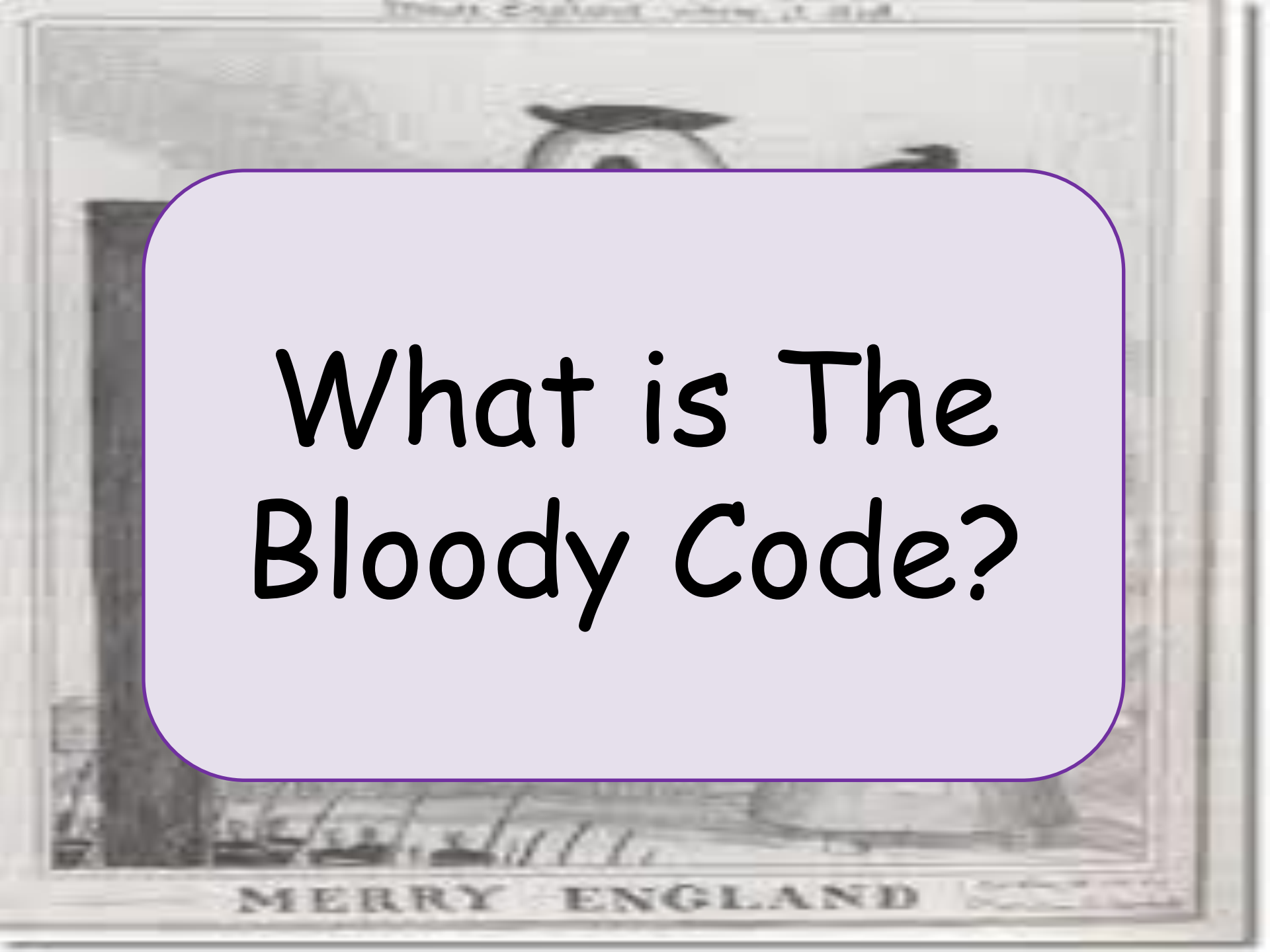
Whipped and put to hard work

Authorities believed crime was a result of not working hard enough.



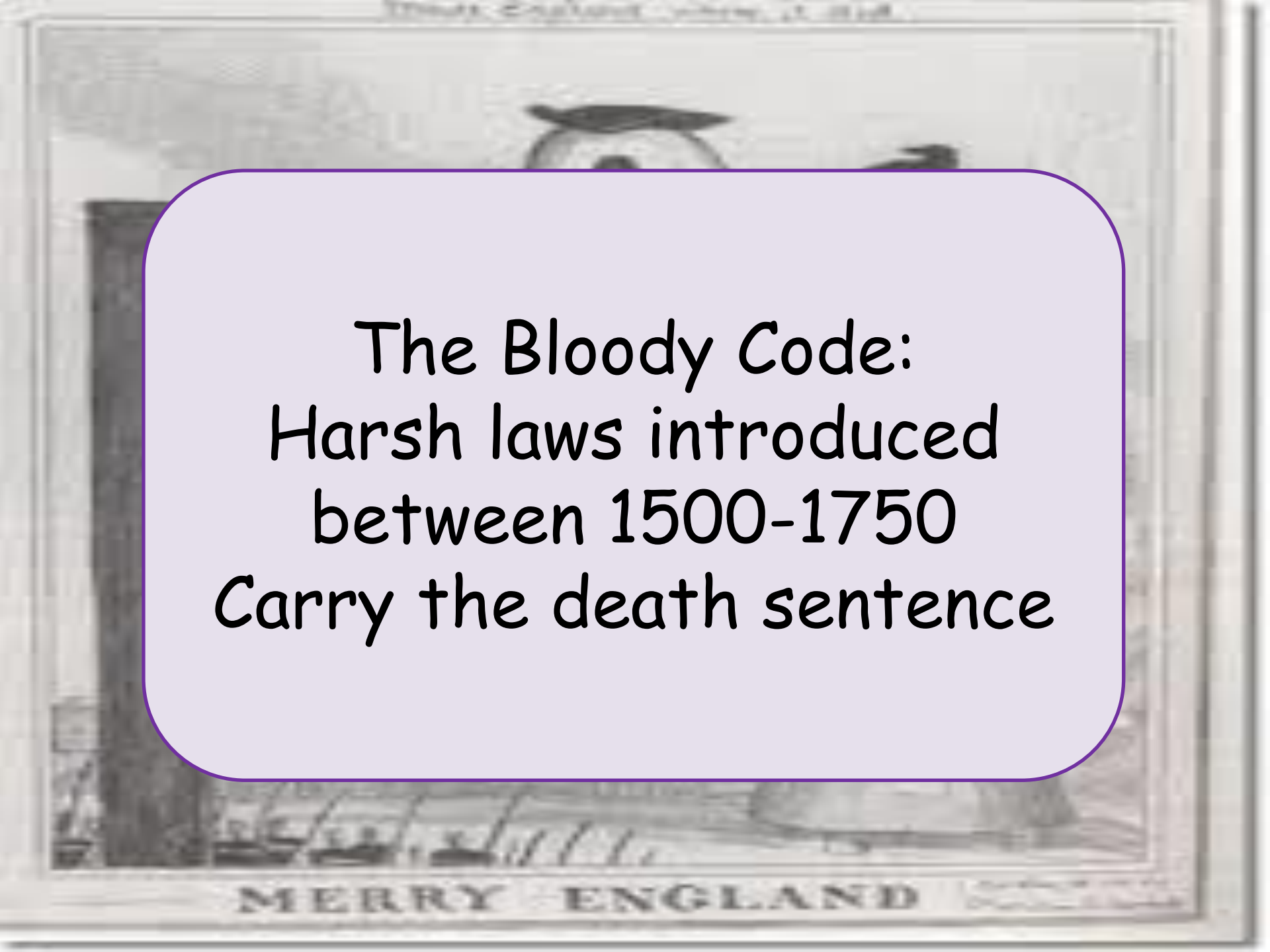
What is a
capital crime?

Capital crime =
Crime punishable
by death



What is The
Bloody Code?

MERRY ENGLAND

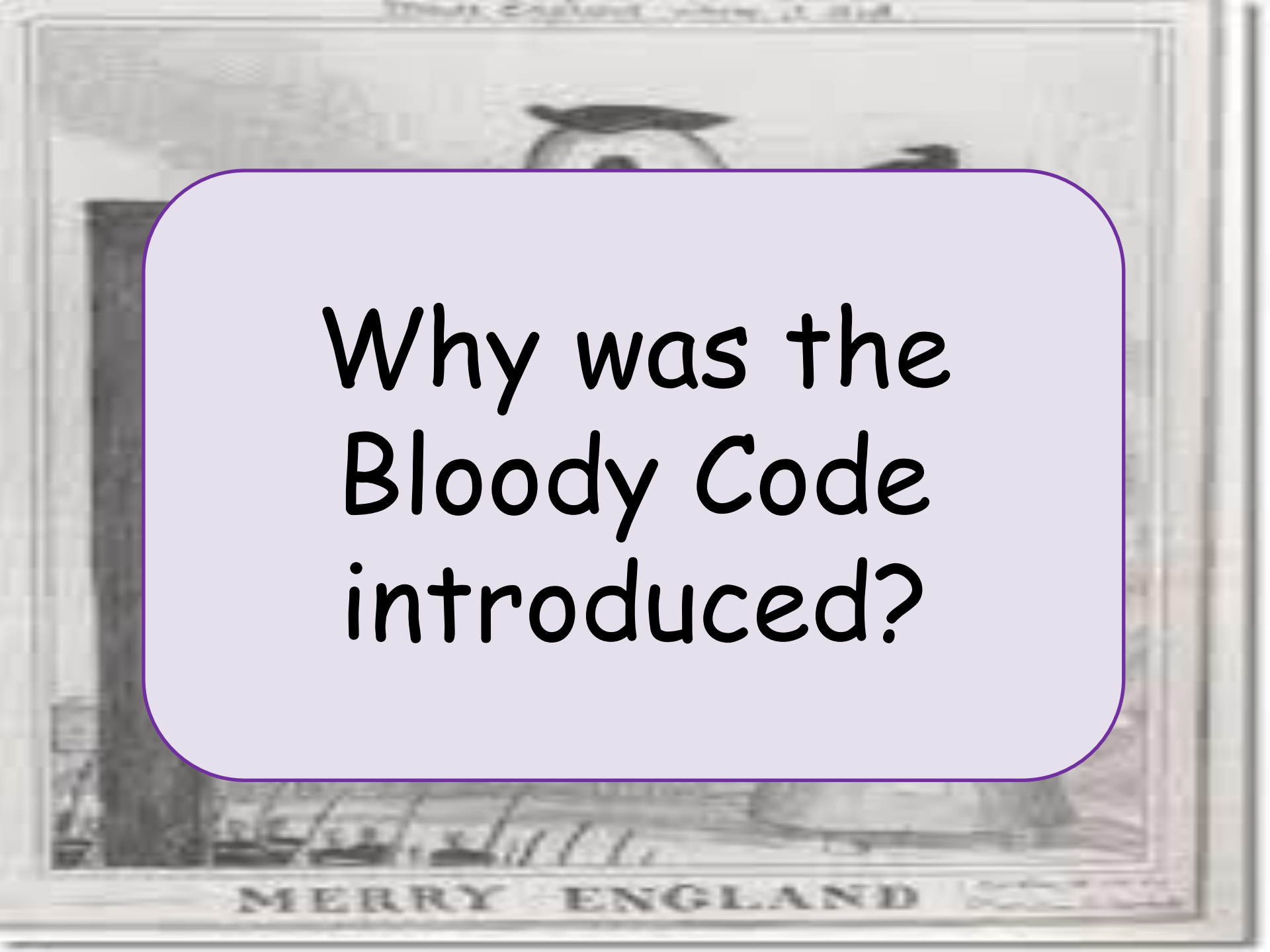


The Bloody Code:
Harsh laws introduced
between 1500-1750
Carry the death sentence

MERRY ENGLAND

How many crimes were
punishable by death
under the Bloody Code?

Over 200



Why was the
Bloody Code
introduced?

MERRY ENGLAND

Why was the Bloody Code introduced?

- Law makers worried about crime
- Changes in Society
- Land owners feared for property
- Belief that harsh punishments would work

Law makers worried about crime

Invention of printing = Newspapers made people believe Britain was full of crime. People were able to read violent crimes and painful executions.

As a result many lawmakers genuinely **believed that crime was on the increase.**

In response to this, they introduced **MORE** capital offences.

During the late 1600s and early 1700 there were a number of **'new' crimes** and criminals.

These new crimes shocked lawmakers into making **punishments even harsher!**

E.g. vagabonds and highwaymen

Changes in Society

From the sixteenth century onwards the social structure of the country was changing. The **power of the church was declining**. There was a lot **more protest** than in the earlier centuries.

Towns were growing, trade was increasing and **travel** was becoming more popular.

These factors made it more difficult to enforce law. In the **crowded and anonymous** streets of cities, it was **easier for criminals** to commit crime and it was harder to detect crime than in any other part of the country.

Land owners feared for property

The politicians who introduced the laws which made up the Bloody Code were **wealthy landowners or business men**.

Protect their **own interests**.

For example, stealing sheep and destroying tools used to manufacture wool were **punishable by death**. It is no coincidence that these crimes are extremely damaging to a rich landowner who makes his money in the wool trade!

Law makers stated that by creating these laws, they were **protecting their jobs and by protecting their jobs, they were benefitting the whole country**.

Belief that harsh punishments would work

Lawmakers hoped that tough, public executions for even the most basic of crimes would **prevent people from committing them.**

For centuries it was believed that the best way to stop a crime that was continually being committed was to make the **punishment harsher and harsher.**

By killing some of the countries criminals, they were **getting rid of them once and for all!** Their death prevented them from ever committing crimes again.

**Bloody Code -
new laws**

**Waltham Black
Act 1723**

The Waltham Black Act 1723

It added over **50 crimes** to the list of capital offences.

e.g. that anyone found armed, disguised or with a **blackened face** in any hunting area was assumed to be poaching, and could be executed.

Smuggling

During the 17th century governments increased taxes on imported goods to raise extra money.

These were unpopular as they raised the prices of popular goods.

Smugglers would bring these goods in to the country avoiding the proper ports so that they didn't have to pay the import tax and could sell the goods cheaper but still make a profit.

Many smugglers were labourers. You could earn 6 or 7 times a normal daily wage in a night of smuggling.

Even helping move the goods could earn you twice as much.

Smugglers would bring in popular goods such as:

Brandy/tea/wine/silk

Why was it difficult to stamp out smuggling?

- Many people didn't see it as a crime, they wouldn't report it.
- There were thousands of miles of unguarded coastline.
- Smugglers worked in large gangs, coastal officers worked alone with a single pistol.
- Smugglers would threaten judges and customs officers if they attempted to seize their goods.
- The rich would also buy smuggled goods. Including Robert Walpole who later became PM.

Under the Bloody Code, you would expect the number of executions increase. Strange as it may be, during this period, the number of executions actually decreased. In the 1700s, there were about 200 executions each year in England and Wales, although sometimes there would be a flurry of executions if the government felt that there was too much crime. The obvious answer for the fall of executions was the falling number of recorded crimes.

Why did the
Bloody Code
end?

Why did the Bloody Code end?

- Public executions were not working - people did not fear them - it was entertainment
- Juries would not convict if someone was going to be hanged
- Ideas about punishment were changing - The punishment should match the crime and not be brutal.
- Transportation was used as an alternative.