



ANDREW JENNINGS

COMPREHENSION

NINJA

MASTERING COMPREHENSION: Photocopiable Activities to Improve Reading

FOR AGES 10–11



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10 ARTISTS' GALLERY

Over the last several centuries, Europe has produced some talented artists whose works are still celebrated around the world today. Three of the most influential European artists ever to have lived are da Vinci, Rembrandt and Picasso – and each of them is also an icon of an artistic movement.

Leonardo da Vinci

Da Vinci is responsible for arguably the most famous piece of art in the world. His *Mona Lisa* takes pride of place in the Louvre museum in Paris, France – but this striking piece of art is not his only memorable work.

Da Vinci was born in 1452, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name 'da Vinci' simply translates to 'of Vinci'). He is renowned for his work as a painter and sculptor, but also as an architect, mathematician, musician, engineer and scientist.

The breadth of his talents makes him representative of Renaissance humanism, a movement in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. The ideal of humanism was to take education out of dry scholarship and into contexts that involved and benefitted real people. It used a wide range of mediums such as da Vinci's, alongside poetry and philosophy, to drive the spiritual and social progress of humankind.

Da Vinci kept extensive notebooks containing details of his work and inventions, many of which were never physically made during his lifetime. Among them were designs for helicopters, tanks and bridges. Since his death, some of his designs have been created in his memory, including his flying machine, and can be found in the French city of Amboise, where da Vinci lived in the final years of his life.

Rembrandt van Rijn

Rembrandt lived during the 1600s in Leiden, in the Dutch Republic (an area now known as the Netherlands). He learned to paint in its capital, Amsterdam.

Rembrandt is most famous for paintings of key moments in history and from myths and religious stories – but with his subjects caught slightly off guard, in a moment of expression or action. These also often contain clues about their stories, for example open letters causing a reaction, or knowing looks between characters. They're often unflattering, making it clear that his subjects – no matter how powerful or holy they were – were human, and flawed. As a body of work, they're recognisable largely due to the way Rembrandt painted light: his figures seem to glow out from a dark, often mysterious background.

The same is true of his many portraits. These are remarkable due to their honesty: they capture his subjects (including Rembrandt himself, in his self-portraits) as they really are, without flattering revisions. They seem intimate, and as though they create biographical stories – very like those in his historical paintings.

Rembrandt never left his home country, and is the epitome of the 'Dutch Masters', painters that flourished in the Dutch Republic after a long period of war. They're characterised by many of the traits he exhibited perfectly: an engagement with their subjects' inner lives, and a lack of idealisation about their appearances.

Pablo Picasso

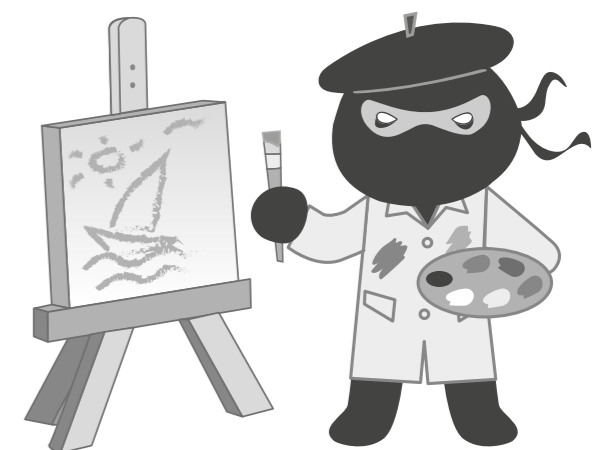
Picasso was the pioneer of Cubism, an art movement that is considered to be the most influential of the 20th century.

He was born in Malaga, Spain, in 1881. He was an experimental artist even when he was young. His father was a painter and art teacher, and Picasso attended art schools in Spain. However, he soon became bored with their traditional teachings.

In 1904, Picasso moved to Paris, France, aged 23. The city's varied artistic atmosphere prompted Picasso to experiment constantly with his style. He focused on colour during what art historians call his 'blue period' and 'rose period'. Then he developed 'primitivism', in which he used the simple curves and lines of stylised tribal art as inspiration. This adapted and shaped itself into Cubism, for which Picasso is most famous. His style swept Paris, and then France, and then the whole of Europe.

Cubist artists study and then disassemble their subjects, before reassembling fragments into a portrait. This means that, rather than using a realistic single viewpoint, they show the subject from many angles, and also at many times, presenting it in a greater context. Cubism, and the several branches of style that resulted from it, form their perspectives by exaggerating geometric forms, such as the curve of a forehead, to examine both the shapes and the inner life of their subjects.

Like da Vinci and humanism, and Rembrandt and the Dutch Masters, Picasso and his Cubism were pursuing understanding of humans – what they really are, and what they could be.



FILL IN THE GAP



Read the sentences and choose the correct word or words to fill the gap.

Over the last several centuries, Europe has produced some _____ artists whose works are still celebrated around the world today.

Rembrandt lived during the 1600s in Leiden, in the Dutch Republic (an area now known as the _____).

He focused on colour during what _____ call his 'blue period' and 'rose period'.

Da Vinci was born in _____, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name 'da Vinci' simply translates to 'of Vinci').

Da Vinci kept extensive notebooks containing details of his work and _____, many of which were never physically made during his lifetime.

Among them were designs for _____, tanks and bridges.

Picasso was the pioneer of Cubism, an art movement that is considered to be the most influential of the _____.

They're _____ many of the traits he exhibited perfectly: an engagement with their subjects' inner lives, and a lack of idealisation about their appearances.

These also often contain clues about their stories, for example _____ causing a reaction, or knowing looks between characters.

Like da Vinci and _____, and Rembrandt and the Dutch Masters, Picasso and his Cubism were pursuing understanding of humans – what they really are, and what they could be.

Rembrandt is most famous for paintings of _____ in history and from myths and religious stories – but with his subjects caught slightly off guard, in a moment of expression or action.

He learned to paint in its capital, _____.

His style swept _____, and then France, and then the whole of Europe.

Cubist artists study and then _____ their subjects, before reassembling fragments into a portrait.

He was an _____ artist even when he was young.

MATCHING



Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

- Leonardo da Vinci
- Rembrandt
- Rembrandt, da Vinci and Picasso
- Pablo Picasso

- known for Cubism
- Renaissance humanism
- engineer, painter and sculptor
- created in memory of da Vinci

- Leonardo da Vinci born
- Rembrandt van Rijn lived in
- Pablo Picasso born
- Leonardo da Vinci died

- experimented constantly with his style
- ideal of humanism
- painted Mona Lisa
- sometimes painted unflattering portraits

- never left his home country
- had a 'blue period' and a 'rose period'
- kept extensive notebooks
- Rembrandt

- moved to Paris aged 23
- celebrated around the world
- born in 1452
- learned to paint in Amsterdam

- 15th and 16th century movement in Europe
- flying machine
- Pablo Picasso
- Leonardo da Vinci

- Netherlands
- Tuscany
- Amboise
- Malaga

- Rembrandt
- da Vinci
- Picasso
- benefit real people with education

- Picasso
- da Vinci
- Rembrandt
- known as a 'Dutch Master'


Label the description with the correct artist.

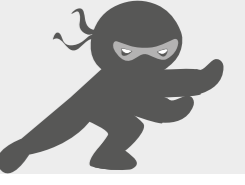
father was a painter	
born in 1881	
kept extensive notebooks	
created the most famous work found in the Louvre museum	
best recognised for Cubism work	
lived during the 1600s	

Label the description with the correct artist.

paintings told biographical stories	
created designs for helicopters, weapons and bridges	
moved to Paris aged 23	
surname means 'of Vinci'	
born in Malaga, Spain	
the epitome of the 'Dutch Masters'	

Label the location with the correct artist.

Leiden, in the Dutch Republic	
Amboise, France	
Tuscany, Italy	
Paris, France	
Malaga, Spain	
Amsterdam	


Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are *true* and which are *false*.

Da Vinci was born in France.

True False

Da Vinci created designs for rockets, aeroplanes and guns.

True False

The Mona Lisa sits in the Louvre Museum, Paris.

True False

Da Vinci had many interests beyond painting.

True False

Amboise is where Da Vinci spent the final years of his life.

True False

Picasso liked to experiment with different styles and techniques.

True False

Picasso's wartime paintings are what he is best recognised for.

True False

Picasso moved to Paris, France, in 1881.

True False

Picasso's mother was a painter and a teacher.

True False

Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain.

True False

Rembrandt lived during the 1800s.

True False

Rembrandt never painted any self-portraits.

True False

The Dutch Republic endured a long period of war.

True False

Rembrandt painted key moments in history.

True False

Rembrandt developed 'primitivism'.

True False

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Circle the correct answer for each of the following questions.

When was Pablo Picasso born?

1891	1881	1871	1889
------	------	------	------

Where did Rembrandt learn to paint?

Amsterdam	Leiden	Malaga	Paris
-----------	--------	--------	-------

Which of the following was considered one of the 'Dutch Masters'?

Rembrandt van Rijn	Leonardo Da Vinci	Pablo Picasso	all three
--------------------	-------------------	---------------	-----------

Which of the following did da Vinci design?

weapons	mobile phones	cars	helicopters
---------	---------------	------	-------------

Which art style is Picasso best known for?

watercolours	Cubism	sculpture	surrealism
--------------	--------	-----------	------------

Which colours was Picasso fond of using?

blue and rose	red and green	rose and black	yellow and blue
---------------	---------------	----------------	-----------------

In which building is the Mona Lisa usually housed?

Louvre Museum	Eiffel Tower	French Museum	London's Gallery
---------------	--------------	---------------	------------------

Which of the following was a Renaissance humanist?

Rembrandt van Rijn	Leonardo Da Vinci	Pablo Picasso	all three
--------------------	-------------------	---------------	-----------

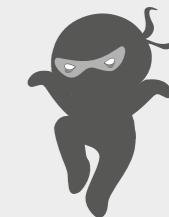
Which of the following painted figures that seem to glow out from a mysterious background?

Rembrandt van Rijn	Leonardo Da Vinci	Pablo Picasso	all three
--------------------	-------------------	---------------	-----------

Where could you see some of da Vinci's designs?

Malaga, Spain	Paris, France	Amboise, France	the Netherlands
---------------	---------------	-----------------	-----------------

123 SEQUENCING



Look at *Artists' gallery*. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text. Look at the first line of each paragraph to help you.

Over the last several centuries, Europe has produced some talented artists whose works are still celebrated around the world today.

Picasso was the pioneer of Cubism, an art movement that is considered to be the most influential of the 20th century.

Da Vinci was born in 1452, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name 'da Vinci' simply translates to 'of Vinci').

The same is true of his many portraits.

He was born in Malaga, Spain, in 1881.

Look at the 'Leonardo da Vinci' section in *Artists' gallery*. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text.

He is renowned for his work as a painter and sculptor, but also as an architect, mathematician, musician, engineer and scientist.

The ideal of humanism was to take education out of dry scholarship and into contexts that involved and benefitted real people.

Da Vinci kept extensive notebooks containing details of his work and inventions, many of which were never physically made during his lifetime.

Since his death, some of his designs have been created in his memory, including his flying machine, and can be found in the French city of Amboise, where da Vinci lived in the final years of his life.

His Mona Lisa takes pride of place in the Louvre museum in Paris, France – but this striking piece of art is not his only memorable work.

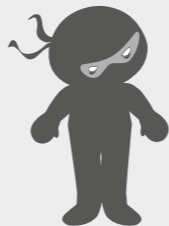
Look at *Artists' gallery*. Number the statements from 1 to 4 to show the order they occur in the text.

However, he soon became bored with their traditional teachings.

Rembrandt is most famous for paintings of key moments in history and from myths and religious stories – but with his subjects caught slightly off guard, in a moment of expression or action.

It used a wide range of mediums such as da Vinci's, alongside poetry and philosophy, to drive the spiritual and social progress of humankind.

Cubist artists study and then disassemble their subjects, before reassembling fragments into a portrait.

 **FIND AND COPY**


These questions are about *Artists' gallery*.

Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy a word that suggests that each of the three artists is a well-known figurehead of their artistic movements.

Look at the 'Leonardo da Vinci' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that da Vinci kept many notebooks.

Look at the 'Rembrandt van Rijn' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that some of his paintings made people seem unattractive.

Look at the 'Pablo Picasso' section. Find and copy a word that suggests he had become disinterested in the art schools in Spain.

Look at the 'Rembrandt van Rijn' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that some of his paintings showed a personal or sensitive side to their subjects.

Look at the 'Pablo Picasso' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that Picasso liked to do things differently and look for new ideas.

Look at the 'Pablo Picasso' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that Cubism takes a feature of a face and makes it bigger than it really is.

Look at the 'Leonardo da Vinci' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that da Vinci is well known for his painting.

 **UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT**


Read the paragraphs below and then follow the instructions.

Leonardo da Vinci

Da Vinci is responsible for arguably the most famous piece of art in the world. His Mona Lisa takes pride of place in the Louvre museum in Paris, France – but this striking piece of art is not his only memorable work.

Da Vinci was born in 1452, near to the Tuscan town of Vinci, in Italy (the name 'da Vinci' simply translates to 'of Vinci'). He is renowned for his work as a painter and sculptor, but also as an architect, mathematician, musician, engineer and scientist.

The breadth of his talents makes him representative of Renaissance humanism, a movement in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. The ideal of humanism was to take education out of dry scholarship and into contexts that involved and benefitted real people. It used a wide range of mediums such as da Vinci's, alongside poetry and philosophy, to drive the spiritual and social progress of humankind.

Underline or highlight a word that means well known by many people.

Underline or highlight a word that means extremely good-looking.

Underline or highlight a word that means a person who designs and builds machines and structures.

Underline or highlight a word that means all human beings.

Underline or highlight a word that means to put a word into another language.

Underline or highlight a phrase that means to put something in the best spot or to showcase it.

FIND AND COPY

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. turmoil | 9. Underline or highlight |
| 2. influential | 10. arguably |
| 3. attended | 11. revitalise |
| 4. devastated | 12. blocked |
| 5. reform | 13. international |
| 6. succeeded | 14. cooperation |
| 7. life-changing | 15. inspirational |
| 8. problematic | |

8. DNA

FILL IN THE GAP

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. life | 8. inherit |
| 2. cancers | 9. forensic |
| 3. chromosomes | 10. different |
| 4. before | 11. 1953 |
| 5. share | 12. hereditary |
| 6. characteristics | 13. genetic |
| 7. parents | 14. at home |

MATCHING

23	pairs of chromosomes
1869	DNA first identified
1953	DNA structure discovered
1962	Nobel Prize awarded
medical condition	cystic fibrosis
twisted structure	double helix
DNA instructions determine	eye colour
DNA testing	prevents illness and fights crime
winners of the Nobel Prize	Watson, Crick and Wilkins
DNA nucleotides	deoxyribonucleic acid A, T, C and G
medical condition	Down's syndrome
Humans share DNA with	bananas
Home DNA tests bought from	chemists
Better understanding of DNA may lead to	better understanding of different cancers
DNA tests	may reveal origins of ancestors
Friedrich Miescher studied	pus
Rosalind Franklin provided	x-ray data
more progress was made	during the first half of the 20th century
DNA strands	can be separated

LABEL

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. chromosomes | Maurice Wilkins |
| 2. fruit flies | 10. similar features |
| 3. bananas | 11. identical twins |
| 4. pus | 12. crime |
| 5. parents | 13. 1953 |
| 6. DNA testing | 14. 1962 |
| 7. Rosalind Franklin | 15. home |
| 8. Friedrich Miescher | 16. chemists |
| 9. James Watson | 17. chimpanzees |
| / Francis Crick / | 18. (all) life |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. True | 8. True |
| 2. False | 9. False |
| 3. True | 10. False |
| 4. False | 11. True |
| 5. True | 12. False |
| 6. True | 13. False |
| 7. True | 14. True |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. x-ray data | 6. cystic fibrosis |
| 2. both parents | 7. AT C G |
| 3. DNA | 8. treatments for cancer |
| 4. 23 | 9. chemists |
| 5. 1962 | |

SEQUENCING

- 1, 3, 2, 5, 4
2, 3, 4, 1, 5
1, 4, 3, 2, 5

FIND AND COPY

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. significantly | 9. Underline or highlight |
| 2. surprisingly | 10. complicated |
| 3. generations | 11. arranging |
| 4. offspring | 12. coincidence |
| 5. discovered | 13. pairs |
| 6. prestigious | 14. impossible |
| 7. all but impossible | |
| 8. kits | |

9. DINOSAURS

FILL IN THE GAP

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. fascinated | 9. Tyrannosaurus Rex |
| 2. Stegosaurus | 10. brain |
| 3. snout | 11. potential |
| 4. Coelophysis | 12. neck |
| 5. Brachiosaurus | 13. Triceratops |
| 6. spiked tail | 14. skeletons |
| 7. banana | 15. gigantic skull |
| 8. rapid | |

MATCHING

Tyrannosaurs Rex	teeth the size of bananas
Stegosaurus	powerful, spiked tail
Triceratops	3 metre skulls
Diplodocus	teeth arranged like a comb
Late Jurassic	Stegosaurus
Late Cretaceous	Tyrannosaurus Rex
Late Triassic	Coelophysis
Late Cretaceous	Triceratops
Stegosaurus	155-145 million years ago
Brachiosaurus	155-140 million years ago
Tyrannosaurus Rex	68-66 million years ago
Coelophysis	225-190 million years ago
consumed 200-400 kilograms of plants every day	Brachiosaurus
ate only plants	Triceratops
the largest of the plate-backed plant eaters	Stegosaurus
ate insects and reptiles	Coelophysis
lived and travelled in groups	many horned dinosaurs
dinosaurs became extinct	tens of millions of years ago
Stegosaurus	brain the size of a plum
Tyrannosaurus Rex	the most iconic dinosaur

LABEL

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Tyrannosaurus Rex | 10. Triceratops |
| 2. Triceratops | 11. Tyrannosaurus Rex |
| 3. Brachiosaurus | 12. Coelophysis |
| 4. Diplodocus | 13. Late Jurassic |
| 5. Stegosaurus | 14. Late Cretaceous |
| 6. Coelophysis | 15. Late Triassic |
| 7. Brachiosaurus | 16. Late Cretaceous |
| 8. Stegosaurus | 17. Late Jurassic |
| 9. Stegosaurus | 18. Late Jurassic |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. True | 9. False |
| 2. False | 10. True |
| 3. True | 11. False |
| 4. True | 12. False |
| 5. True | 13. True |
| 6. False | 14. True |
| 7. False | 15. False |
| 8. False | |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Triceratops | 6. herbivores |
| 2. 60 | 7. Late Cretaceous |
| 3. lion | 8. Stegosaurus |
| 4. smell | 9. 26 metres |
| 5. 3 metres | 10. Brachiosaurus |

SEQUENCING

- 5, 1, 2, 4, 3
5, 2, 1, 4, 3
3, 1, 2, 5, 4

FIND AND COPY

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. fearsome | 5. initially |
| 2. unusual | 6. rapid |
| 3. fascinated | 7. deterred |
| 4. extinct | 8. foliage |

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

solitary
herbivore
gigantic
fend off
unusual
experts

10. ARTISTS' GALLERY

FILL IN THE GAP

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. talented | 9. open letters |
| 2. Netherlands | 10. humanism |
| 3. art historians | 11. key moments |
| 4. 1452 | 12. Amsterdam |
| 5. inventions | 13. Paris |
| 6. helicopters | 14. disassemble |
| 7. 20th century | 15. experimental |
| 8. characterised | |

MATCHING

Leonardo da Vinci	born in 1452
Rembrandt	learned to paint in Amsterdam
Rembrandt, da Vinci and Picasso	celebrated around the world
Pablo Picasso	moved to Paris aged 23
known for Cubism	Pablo Picasso
Renaissance humanism	15th and 16th century movement in Europe
engineer, painter and sculptor	Leonardo da Vinci
created in memory of da Vinci	flying machine
Leonardo da Vinci born	Tuscany
Rembrandt van Rijn	Netherlands
Pablo Picasso born	Malaga
Leonardo da Vinci died	Amboise
experimented constantly with his style	Picasso
ideal of humanism	benefit real people with education
painted Mona Lisa	da Vinci
sometimes painted unflattering portraits	Rembrandt
never left his home country	Rembrandt
had a 'blue period' and a 'rose period'	Picasso
kept extensive notebooks	da Vinci
Rembrandt	known as a 'Dutch Master'

LABEL

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Pablo Picasso | 11. Pablo Picasso |
| 2. Pablo Picasso | 12. Rembrandt van Rijn |
| 3. Leonardo da Vinci | 13. Rembrandt van Rijn |
| 4. Leonardo da Vinci | 14. Leonardo da Vinci |
| 5. Pablo Picasso | 15. Leonardo da Vinci |
| 6. Rembrandt van Rijn | 16. Pablo Picasso |
| 7. Rembrandt Van Rijn | 17. Pablo Picasso |
| 8. Leonardo da Vinci | 18. Rembrandt van Rijn |
| 9. Pablo Picasso | |
| 10. Leonardo da Vinci | |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. False | 9. False |
| 2. True | 10. True |
| 3. True | 11. False |
| 4. True | 12. False |
| 5. True | 13. True |
| 6. True | 14. True |
| 7. False | 15. False |
| 8. False | |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 1881 | 6. blue and rose |
| 2. Amsterdam | 7. Louvre Museum |
| 3. Rembrandt van Rijn | 8. Leonardo Da Vinci |
| 4. helicopters | 9. Rembrandt van Rijn |
| 5. Cubism | 10. Amboise |

SEQUENCING

- 1, 4, 2, 3, 5
2, 3, 4, 5, 1
3, 2, 1, 4

FIND AND COPY

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. icon | 5. intimate |
| 2. extensive | 6. experimental |
| 3. unflattering | 7. exaggerating |
| 4. bored | 8. renowned |

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

famous / renowned
striking
engineer
humankind
translates
pride of place

11. CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE

FILL IN THE GAP

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Wergild | 8. witch |
| 2. icy water | 9. importance |
| 3. humiliation | 10. wooden rack |
| 4. dislocating | 11. kingdoms |
| 5. rotten food | 12. trial of ordeal |
| 6. Vagrancy | 13. court |
| 7. punishments | 14. Stealing |

MATCHING

hot iron branding	Anglo-Saxons
the rack	the Tudors
the hook	Medieval England
wooden stocks	the Tudors
witchcraft	dunked in icy water
drunkenness	forced to wear a wooden barrel
Tower of London	the wooden rack
Wergild	compensation system
flogging	being whipped
the hook	for gouging eyes
the rack	tearing limbs from sockets
scold's bridle	for gossiping
people were executed	huge crowds that included children
widespread during Tudor times	theft
believed in witches	the Tudors
witnessed executions	the public
iron maiden	a metal coffin with razor-sharp spikes
trial by combat	fighting to the death
tongue tearer	pulled the tongue out of the mouth
trial by fire	walking across red-hot iron

LABEL

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Anglo-Saxon | 12. Tudor |
| 2. Tudor | 13. homelessness |
| 3. Medieval England | 14. whipping |
| 4. Anglo-Saxon | 15. metal cage |
| 5. Tudor | 16. compensation system |
| 6. Tudor | 17. violent physical test |
| 7. Tudor | 18. used to hold culprits |
| 8. Anglo-Saxon | |
| 9. Tudor | |
| 10. Tudor | |
| 11. Anglo-Saxon | |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. True | 9. True |
| 2. True | 10. True |
| 3. False | 11. False |
| 4. True | 12. True |
| 5. True | 13. True |
| 6. False | 14. False |
| 7. True | 15. False |
| 8. True | |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Wergild | 6. the hook |
| 2. God | 7. in public |
| 3. the Tudor period | 8. a witch |
| 4. being homeless | 9. a metal cage |
| 5. the tongue tearer | 10. stretch people |

SEQUENCING

- 5, 4, 2, 1, 3
4, 3, 1, 5, 2
2, 5, 4, 1, 3

FIND AND COPY

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| 11. nowadays | 15. compensation |
| 12. ordeal | 16. confessions |
| 13. similar | 17. widespread |
| 14. victims | 18. bizarre |