

Quakers and Justice – the Penn-Meade trial [using story]

Key Stage 2 [years 4, 5 or 6] Aims: for children to know the effect that Quakers had on court justice.

| Learning Objectives | Activities | Vocabulary and Key Questions | Resources |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>to begin to understand why early Quakers were persecuted</i> • <i>to recognise the names William Penn & William Mead & know how their trial affected justice in our courts</i> • <i>be able to give 5 key facts about the trial & its background</i> • <i>plus possibly</i> • <i>to know at least 3 ways in which Quakers today are working for justice</i> | <p>Starter: Show timeline linking into children’s learning of history so far.</p> <p>Main: Tell the story of how the Quaker way began. Explain the principles that upset so many of the church establishment & ask why they think this was. Talk about the persecution that Quakers suffered – ask why they think the Quakers refused to give in. Explain that William Penn & William Mead were Quakers.</p> <p>Read the story of the Penn-Mead trial. Discuss. Why was this trial so important? What dangers are there – in being tried by jury – in being tried by a judge or magistrate alone?</p> <p>Plenary: Ask children, working in pairs, to jot down 5 Key Facts about the story of the Trial. Discuss.</p> <p>Follow up: What are Quakers doing today? Are they still active in Justice work? Look in the Quakers in the world website to start finding answers.</p> | <p>Quaker, Religious Society of Friends, William Penn, William Mead. indictment, jury</p> <p>What do you think ordinary people may have made of the changes? Why do you think that church members & priests etc were so upset by the Quakers way of worshipping? Why didn’t the Quakers & the jurymen just give in & avoid all the unpleasantness? What evidence do we have about the trial? Why was this trial so important? What dangers are there – in being tried by jury – in being tried by a judge or magistrate alone?</p> | <p>Timeline showing Tudors & Stuarts plus religious “swings”.</p> <p>Background information – BBC website [link below] gives a very clear account. www.bbc.co.uk/religion/relions/christianity/subdivisions/quakers</p> <p>The Story of the Penn-Meade Trial [including notes re the wearing of hats]</p> <p>Access to the Internet for research [via an Interactive whiteboard perhaps] link below www.constitution.org/trials/penn/penn-mead.htm .</p> <p>Key Facts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In that time people were not allowed to worship as they chose. Quakers meeting houses were closed. 2. W.Penn & W.Mead were Quakers who were arrested & tried for made-up crimes 3. The court officials tried to intimidate the jury into producing a verdict of guilty. They treated the prisoners & the jury very badly. 4. The jury refused over & over again to give a false verdict. 5. English law was strengthened & juries give verdicts according to evidence & their own consciences. |