

Citizenship Trail

This trail takes you through the permanent galleries, looking at topics like crime and punishment; law and order; the role of government; rights and responsibilities (part One); the environment; development; identities and the Commonwealth (Part Two).

Part One: Empire – Freedom, Crime and Punishment, Governance

Freedom?

Start in the 'Plantations in the Americas' gallery. Find and read the information panels underneath the big American flag.

What ideals were included in the American Declaration of Independence of 1776? Complete the sentences below:

'All _____ are created _____' .

'Life, _____ and the Pursuit of Happiness'.

Who was excluded from this at the time? _____

Imagine you were one of those excluded. How would you have felt?

How could you make your voice heard, and fight for these rights? Stay in this section of the gallery, and look in the cases and read the panels on the walls about slavery in the Americas. Make a list below of all the methods by which people made a stand, and fought for their rights. See if you can add any extra methods from your own knowledge, and from the rest of the museum [suggested time – 5 mins].

Crime and Punishment: Law and Order

Go through to the 'Islands of Empire' gallery. Read the panel to your left.

How did people in the 18th century deal with crime/ criminals? What was their attitude towards those who committed a crime?

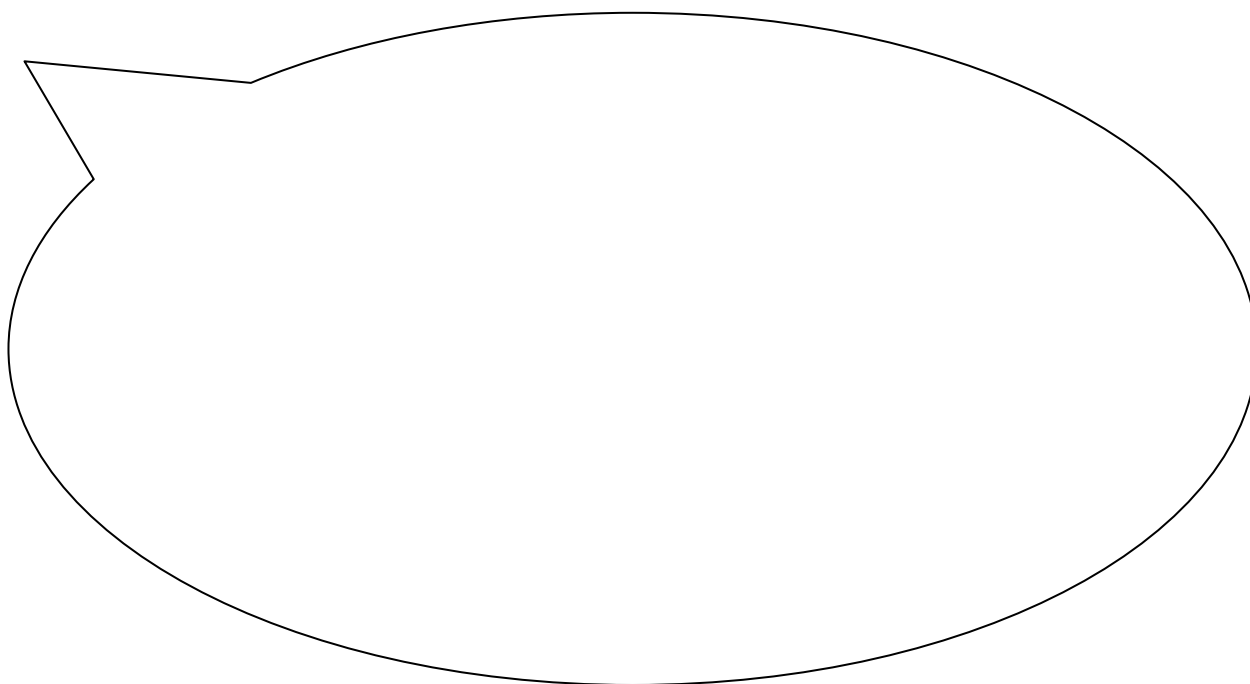
How do we deal with crime today? Are our attitudes the same? Why might we have similar/ different responses to and attitudes about crime today?

Find the spinning information wheel about William Cuffay, the radical trade union leader. What is a trade union/ why would it be set up?

Why was Cuffay transported to Australia?

Discuss the following questions in your group, and make notes on the key points.

- 1) Was Cuffay a terrorist? Defend your answer.
- 2) Is violence never/sometimes/always necessary for social or political change?
- 3) Is violence ever acceptable or right?



Crime and Punishment: Law and Order

Go through to the 'Conflict and Control' gallery. Read the 'Law and Order' panel.

What methods did the British Empire use to keep law and order?

Find the quote from The Royal Commission into Criminal Justice in East Africa in the circle. It claims that law and order could only be maintained in the Empire by imposing "British concepts of wrong-doing". Discuss the following questions with your group and make notes on the key points below. Think about what you know about law and order in Britain and other countries, and in other political systems, like dictatorships.

1) Who decides what is and is not wrong, and how people should be punished?

2) Does everyone agree about what should be a crime and what should be allowed? Can you think of any examples where people disagree, and why?

3) Does everyone agree on how people should be punished?

4) Do you think we have a fair system to deal with crime and punishment in the UK? Why?

To the right of the big painting is a listening station. Read through these questions carefully before going into the listening station.

Track One tells you about a trial in Ghana. What are the problems with this trial? Do you think it was a fair trial?

In track three Mrs Sarla Sharma talks about how even as a child she was active in fighting for her rights. How did she do this, and why?

What did she do?	Why

The Role of Government

Stay in the listening station. Track Four is an account from Mr Philip Bowcock, who was a District Officer in The Sudan and Zambia.

Complete this quote from the extract about the role of government:

“Government is a _____, to be exercised for the _____ of the _____”.

Do you agree? What do you think the role of government is?

Read the ‘Crown Rule’ panel. The monarchy was very important part of and symbol of the British Empire. How did many of her subjects feel about Queen Victoria?

Do people feel the same way about Queen Elizabeth II? What is the role of the monarchy in today's Britain?

What systems did the British use to rule the colonies and were they successful? .

Who did the British tax and why? Was this a fair system?

Why do we pay taxes today? What is the tax money used for? Is today's system fair?

Move through to the **'Humanitarian Impulse'** gallery [past the suitcases]. Find and read the 'Culture Clash' information panel, by the slide machine. Read the other panels (Good Intentions; Science, Schooling) in this section of the gallery as well, to help you gather information about the benefits and disadvantages of colonial rule. List them below.

Advantages	Disadvantages

Think back to the American Declaration of Independence. Are those ideals upheld under colonial rule? Are they worth losing the benefits of colonial rule for?

Move along to the **'Empire at Home'** gallery. Find the display case with many products from the empire in it. Can you see any products in there that we still have and use in the UK?

Pick one of the products and draw the image on its packaging below.

Do you think this image would be used today to promote a product? If not, why not?
