

# What was crime and punishment like in the Stuart period?

## Historical skills: Evidence and Interpretation



### Evidence

Jennet was a 9-year-old child.

"I saw my mum's spirit turn into a brown dog, and she planned to kill various community members."

The neighbours and Jennet's family were enemies who had argued for years over different things.

Jennet's sister, Alizon Device, was begging on the streets and asked a pedlar, John Law, for some pins. He refused, so she cursed him. That evening, John Law suffered a stroke and blamed Alizon for cursing him.

Can we trust what Jennet was saying? Explain your reasoning.

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Why is the neighbours being enemies significant in this trial?

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Did Alizon Device curse John Law? Explain your reasoning.

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