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Methodisch-didaktische Hinweise

Die hier vorgestellten englischen Texte handeln überwiegend von interessanten geschichtlichen Begebenheiten.

Neben der sprachlichen wird auch die landes- und geschichtskundliche Kompetenz geschult, handeln doch alle Texte von spannenden Erlebnissen, Erzählungen und Fakten aus vergangenen Tagen. Vom Überfall der Normannen im Jahre 1066 bis zum Notting Hill Carnival im 20. Jahrhundert werden Schlaglichter der einzelnen Epochen aufgezeigt.

Jedem der 14 Texte schließen sich mehrere Übungen an. Hier werden Wortschatz, Satzbau, Konzentration, Textinhalt, freies Schreiben, Tabellen auswerten, unregelmäßige Verben und weitere wichtige sprachliche Kompetenzen auf kurzweilige, abwechslungsreiche Form gefestigt.

Viel Spaß mit der Rundreise durch die Geschichte wünschen Ihnen das Redaktionsteam des Kohl-Verlages und

Barbara Hamblock

1. Highwaymen

Highwaymen or 'gentlemen of the road' were thieves who during the 17th and 18th centuries rode up and down the country on horseback, robbing people, especially those travelling by stage-coach. The highwaymen stopped their victims shouting 'Stand and deliver' or 'Your money or your life'. They usually chose lonely spots, open spaces or wooded areas to lie in wait. These robbers were admired by many and became national heroes although the penalty for robbery with violence was hanging. Many English highwaymen ended up on the gallows, but are said to have been fearless and went to their deaths laughing. The last recorded robbery by a mounted highwayman was in 1831. Over the years they have been the subject of plays, poems, films, music and video games.

One of the most notorious English highwaymen was Dick Turpin, born in 1705. His father was a butcher and it is thought that Dick, too, worked in this trade in his teens. Unfortunately, he became involved with the Essex gang, a group of robbers and deer thieves that armed themselves with pistols and attacked, beat and robbed innocent people. After several members of the gang were caught, the group broke up and Dick Turpin turned to highway robbery. Together with an accomplice, he robbed several coach parties. It is thought that he may have accidentally shot and killed his partner. Later he himself escaped capture by killing again. After that he changed his name to Palmer and fled to York. He pretended to be a horse trader, but after an incident where he killed a man's cockerel he was arrested and taken to York Castle in handcuffs, suspected of being a horse thief and of stealing sheep. After his trial he was sentenced to death. He was driven to the gallows in an open cart and, fearless as ever, he bowed to all the spectators as he passed. Turpin's body was left hanging for hours, then taken down and buried. Soon after, the corpse was stolen by body snatchers for medical research, but it was recovered and buried a second time. The body is said to lie in St George's graveyard in York.

Dick Turpin is best known for his exploits as a highwayman and there are many legends about him and his fabled ride from London to York on his horse Black Bess, which had to run so fast that it died. Although he was a robber and a villain, he was a daring, reckless, likeable character and has gone down in history as such.



1. Highwaymen

Exercise 1

Answer the following questions on the text in full sentences.

1. What was a highwayman?

2. What was a punishment for armed robbery?

3. What sort of people were highwaymen?

4. Where did highwaymen wait for their victims?

5. Where can you see or hear stories of highwaymen?

6. With whom did Dick Turpin get involved?

7. Did Dick Turpin kill anybody? If so, who?

8. When Dick Turpin went to York, what did he say was his work?

9. What was Dick Turpin suspected of?

10. What was Dick Turpin's sentence?

11. Was Dick Turpin afraid of dying?

12. Why was his body stolen?

13. Who or what was Black Bess?

14. Where is Dick Turpin's body thought to be?

1. Highwaymen

Exercise 2

Find suitable words to fill the blanks.

Highwaymen were (1) _____ who rode around the country robbing (2) _____. If they were caught, they were (3) _____. Although they were criminals, people (4) _____ them and treated them as (5) _____ heroes. They often (6) _____ in wait in (7) _____ regions. You can read stories about them in (8) _____ and (9) _____. Dick Turpin is the name of a (10) _____ highwayman. He was (11) _____ with a gang of thieves and robbers. He once (12) _____ from London to York on his (13) _____, Black Bess. He (14) _____ to York under the name of Palmer. He was sentenced to (15) _____, but rode to the gallows bravely and cheerfully. His corpse was (16) _____ by body snatchers for (17) _____ research. Today his body is said to lie in St George's (18) _____.

Exercise 3

Put the following sentences in the negative.

- Highwaymen usually chose lonely spots to wait for coaches.

- Dick Turpin became involved with a gang of robbers.

- Dick Turpin escaped capture by killing.

- Dick Turpin pretended to be a horse trader.

- Dick Turpin's body was left hanging on the gallows for hours.

- Body snatchers went to the graveyard and stole the corpse.

- The horse ran very fast all the way to York.

- Dick Turpin's body lies in St George's graveyard.

1. Highwaymen

Exercise 4

Write a short dialogue between Dick Turpin and a rich man in the coach he has stopped.

Dick Turpin: _____

Rich man: _____

Dick Turpin: _____

Rich man: _____

Dick Turpin: _____

Rich man: _____

Dick Turpin: _____

Rich man: _____

Exercise 5

There is a famous poem by Alfred Noyes called 'The Highwayman'. Find it in a book or on the internet and retell the story in your own words. Write in your exercise book.



12. Jack the Ripper

Jack the Ripper is a name that puts fear into the hearts of people even today. But who was he? He was a serial killer who found his victims in the Whitechapel district in the East End of London around 1888. Over the years there have been very many suspects, more than 100, but one of the most notorious killers in criminal history was never caught and remains unidentified. Possibly it was a journalist who gave the murderer the name by which he came to be known – Jack the Ripper.

Who were his victims and what was the background against which he worked? Of eleven murders carried out between 1888 and 1889 only five could definitely be connected to the 1888 killings. They were Mary Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes and Mary Kelly. These women were all prostitutes living in slums. All of them were brutally killed and mutilated within a period of about twelve weeks. Their throats were slit, their bodies cut open and internal organs were removed in at least three cases. Was he interrupted in the other cases? Did the killer have surgical skills?

The area of London where these women lived and worked had become overcrowded. Conditions were terrible. The streets were unlit and there was a maze of dark little alleyways. Great poverty forced many to become prostitutes. A whole part of society was poor and starving and yet the rest of Victorian society had been blissfully unaware of the situation until the Ripper murders attracted the attention of the press at home and abroad.

The police investigating the murders were hounded by journalists and were in a race against time to catch the Ripper before he killed again. More than 2,000 people were interviewed, more than 300 were investigated and 80 were detained. Forensic material was collected and examined, but this science was nowhere near as developed as it is today. So who was suspected? Was it someone who lived locally or was it an educated upper-class gentleman, maybe a surgeon? Even Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice in Wonderland*, was thought by some to be the Ripper. Letters sent to the police signed by the Ripper were probably the work of newspaper men who wanted to keep the public interested in the murders. For whatever reason, the police failed to catch and identify the murderer. And so the legend lives on, partly due to the press, partly due to the seedy area in which it all happened and the gruesome mutilation of the women, and partly due to the name itself – Jack the Ripper.

The Ripper is the subject of endless works of fiction and half-fact. You won't find him in Madame Tussauds' Chamber of Horrors, but you can take a tour of the Whitechapel area and still see many of the buildings associated with him which haven't changed much since the late 19th century. You can see the grave of Mary Kelly, the pub, now a restaurant, where Mary Nichols was drinking just before she was murdered, the cobbled street along which Martha Tabram, one of the suspected victims, walked with her killer early in the morning, and if this is all too sinister for you, go and eat fish and chips; the doorway of the shop is where the murderer left his only clue – a scrap of blood-stained material.



12. Jack the Ripper

Exercise 1

Are the following statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

1. People nowadays laugh about Jack the Ripper.

2. He found his victims in a chapel in the East End of London.

3. They still haven't found the identity of the killer even today.

4. The police were sure that he had committed eleven murders.

5. All his victims were strangled.

6. The women lived in a beautiful part of London.

7. Victorian society felt very sorry for the people living in the East End.

8. The police made a huge effort to find the killer.

9. Forensic science was already very advanced at the time.

10. The killer could possibly have been a surgeon.

11. Lewis Carroll was suspected by some of being the Ripper.

12. The police identified, but were unable to catch the murderer.

13. The Ripper is a star attraction in the Chamber of Horrors.

14. All the buildings associated with the Ripper have long since disappeared.

12. Jack the Ripper

Exercise 2

Complete the following passage using the verbs in the list.
Some verbs may be in the passive.

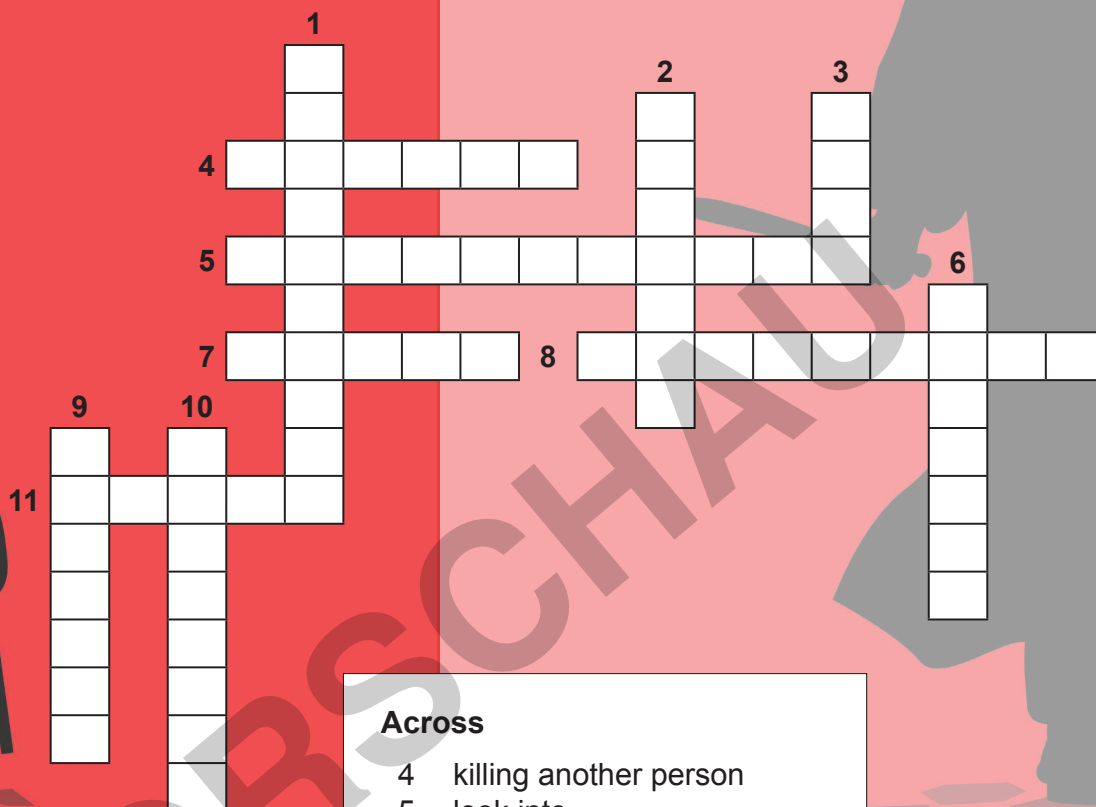
arouse – be (2x) – commit – connect – find – go – kill –
leave – live (2x) – mutilate – pick up – receive – write

Today people (1) _____ to Whitechapel to see the places which
(2) _____ with the notorious serial killer Jack the Ripper.
He (3) _____ at least five and probably more prostitutes within a short
space of time. All the women (4) _____ and (5) _____
to die. Not many clues (6) _____ but in one doorway a policeman
(7) _____ a scrap of blood-stained material. The police
(8) _____ many letters supposed to be from Jack the Ripper, but
actually they (9) _____ by journalists hoping to increase the circu-
lation of their newspapers. In those days the East End (10) _____
a slum area where people (11) _____ in terrible conditions. Yet not
far away in the West End, Victorians (12) _____ in luxury. There
(13) _____ still serial killers who (14) _____ terrible
crimes, but none of them (15) _____ the same feelings and fear as
Jack the Ripper.

12. Jack the Ripper

Exercise 3

Complete the crossword.



Across

- 4 killing another person
- 5 look into
- 7 red liquid in the body
- 8 science used in criminology
- 11 without lights

Down

- 1 someone who writes for a newspaper
- 2 a doctor who operates
- 3 labyrinth
- 6 the people who are killed
- 9 person the police think is guilty
- 10 a narrow street

