

Convict Punishments

Convicts had many rules to follow in the colony and discipline was harsh for those convicts who didn't follow them. Convicts were punished for a variety of reasons. These included turning up late for work (or not turning up at all!), being disrespectful to guards and other people of authority, attempting to escape, or drunkenness.

Cut and paste to match each punishment to its description.

Flogging



Treadmill



Chain Gang



Solitary Confinement



Penal Colony



Extended Sentence



Convicts who couldn't be controlled easily were sent to isolated colonies or prisons. Here, in places such as Moreton Bay, Norfolk Island and Port Macquarie, convicts were given hard physical labour such as clearing land, cutting timber and other agricultural work.

This punishment was handed down to convicts who reoffended or committed more serious crimes.

This was a physically torturous punishment. Convicts given this punishment were forced to step continuously, rotating the wheel. This was a physically exhausting punishment. As a medical precaution, the weight of each convict was recorded before and after this punishment.

This punishment was helpful to the colony as the treadmills ground grains that fed the convicts.

The whips had nine knotted leather cords which would cut into the flesh of the person being whipped. Enough strikes of the whip would cut through to the bone. Many convicts required medical treatment after they had been flogged.

This was a very common punishment.

This punishment meant that convicts were shackled in leg-irons and given back-breaking work such as road construction. These leg-irons were heavy and made walking painful as the iron rubbed against the convicts' bare ankles. When it was time for the leg-iron to be removed, a blacksmith would hammer it open while it was still being worn.

This punishment was given for more serious crimes.

Convicts were locked in a small, dark cell away from other convicts. A convict could spend weeks in the cell, receiving only bread and water.

This punishment was given for minor crimes.

While some convicts had their original sentence shortened due to good behaviour, other convicts found themselves with an even longer sentence.

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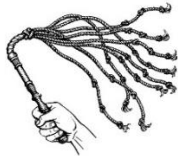


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