

Convict Punishments

Use the words below to complete the passage about convict punishment.

weight	bread	convicts	leather	road	cat-o'-nine-tails
ankles	sewing	leg-irons	late	power	agricultural

Convicts had many rules to follow in the colony, and discipline was harsh for those convicts who didn't follow them.

Solitary Confinement

One common punishment for minor crimes was being locked in a small cell away from other convicts. Minor crimes included returning _____ or being drunk in the barracks. The cells were dark, cold and very uncomfortable for the convict. A convict could spend weeks in the cell, receiving only _____ and water.

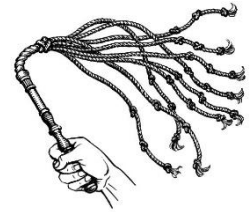


Chain Gangs

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

Flogging

Another common punishment was flogging. The whips had nine knotted _____ cords which would cut into the flesh of the person being whipped. These whips were known as the _____. Enough strikes of the whip would cut through to the bone. The convict who was to be flogged was usually tied to a triangular frame. Floggings could only be ordered by a magistrate or the Governor. Flogging was a physically tough punishment to administer. For this reason, the job of flogging was often given to other _____, under the watch of a guard.



Treadmills

Walking the treadmill was another torturous punishment. Convicts given this punishment were forced to step continuously on large treadmills. Their steps provided the _____ which rotated the treadmills. This was a physically exhausting punishment. As a medical precaution, the _____ of each convict was recorded before they went on and after they got off. This punishment was helpful to the colony as the treadmills ground grains that fed the convicts.

Penal Colonies

Convicts who committed more serious crimes or continued to reoffend were given longer sentences or sent to isolated prisons or penal colonies such as Port Arthur, Moreton Bay or Norfolk Island. Here, convicts were forced into back-breaking tasks such as cutting timber, clearing land and other _____ work.



While female convicts also faced punishments for bad behaviour, the punishments were often different to those of the male convicts. Leg-irons and floggings were not usually punishments handed down to women. Female convicts who broke rules were sent to female factories where they were forced into jobs such as _____, straw plaiting or even rock breaking. Female convicts who continued to misbehave were sent to solitary confinement.

Convict Punishments Answers

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These leg-irons were very 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.

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