

## Torture Instruments from Medieval Times

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Stocks—in Belstone, Dartmoor (England)—used to punish offenders. Photo by Ethan Doyle White, online via Wikimedia Commons. License: <u>CC BY-SA 4.0</u>

## CAUTION: THIS STORY, AND ITS LINKS, CONTAIN GRUESOME REFERENCES OR IMAGES

...Deep down in our poor human nature lurks the love of blood...

Was A.R. Allinson right when <u>he wrote those awful words</u>? Is there some reason why people persist in torturing each other?

It's not good enough to say torture only happens in the absence of law. Sometimes torture happens when <u>the</u> <u>law is perverted</u>. When a person is charged with a capital crime, and is not represented by counsel, the law is perverted. When a death sentence is the likely trial outcome, and no lawyer is allowed to speak for the accused, what kind of law do we have?

What is the point of having "legal proceedings" at all when the <u>end result</u> is intentionally unjust? Who could even begin to think the word "fair" is remotely connected to such "trials?"

Sometimes <u>instruments of torture</u> defy human comprehension. The links to photographs in this story will allow you to examine actual torture devices, gathered together for an <u>exhibit</u> that began in Florence (in 1983) and closed in Barcelona (in 1986). Many of these objects are originals, used as far back as the 1500s. Others are accurate reconstructions.

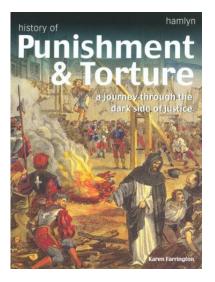
The links to drawings and illustrations depict how these instruments of torment were used.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Torture-Instruments-from-Medieval-Times">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Torture-Instruments-from-Medieval-Times</a>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

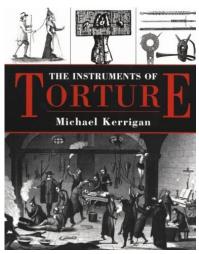
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Media Stream



## History of Punishment and Torture

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