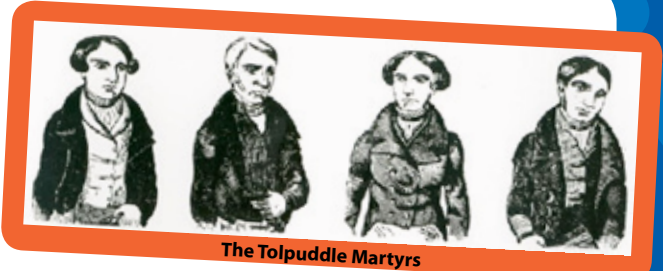


INFORMATION SOURCE

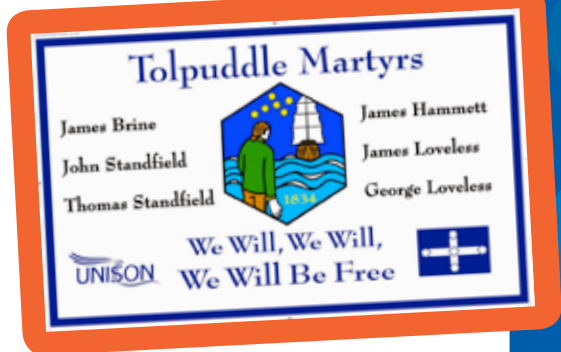
Fact sheet: Tolpuddle Martyrs 1830
worksite.actu.org.au/tolpuddle-martyrs-1830/



The Tolpuddle Martyrs

ACTIVITY 1: TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS QUIZ

- What was the name of the union the Tolpuddle Martyrs formed?
 - The Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers
 - The Worker’s Society of Agricultural Labourers
 - The English Society of Farm Labourers
- What were the Tolpuddle Martyrs charged with?
 - Rioting
 - Swearing an oath
 - Arson
- What wage were they receiving at the time of their arrest?
 - 6 shillings
 - 7 shillings
 - 9 shillings
- How long were they sentenced to transportation to Australia?
 - 3 years
 - 10 years
 - 7 years
- Who was the British Prime Minister at the time of their transportation?
 - Lord Hobart
 - Lord Perth
 - Lord Melbourne



Unions Today
 Today more than 2 million Australians are part of 46 major unions. Together workers in unions have fought for and won the 38 working week and the 8 hour day, a minimum wage that is enough to support and feed a family, annual leave, superannuation and safer workplaces. It is now illegal to discriminate against someone for being a member of a union.

6. List 3 reasons why the Tolpuddle Martyrs were paid so little according to *Worksite’s page Tolpuddle martyrs 1830*. Think about the impact of the industrial revolution on English farm labourers.

- _____
- _____
- _____

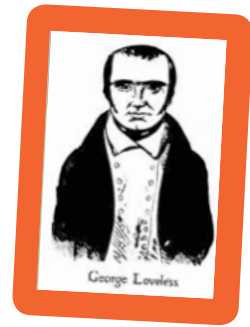
7. Explain why the Tolpuddle Martyrs formed a union, and what it was they were hoping to achieve, according to *Worksite’s Tolpuddle martyrs 1830*.

ACTIVITY 2: PLEA TO THE JUDGE

My lord, if we had violated any law it was not done intentionally. We were uniting together to save ourselves, our wives and families from starvation.

George Loveless, one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs addressing the judge during his trial.

Imagining that you are one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, write a persuasive speech arguing to the Judge at your trial about why you shouldn't be punished for forming a union.



ACTIVITY 3: WRITING A LETTER HOME

Imagining that you are one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and have been transported to Australia, write a letter home to your family describing your experiences as a convict in the colony. Think about whether you miss your family and if you are worried about how they are surviving without you, what you think about the people back in England trying to win your freedom, the hardships of convict life and whether you are angry at being transported.



We welcome comments and suggestions from students and teachers about Worksite.
Contact us at worksite@actu.org.au